

COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR THE THERAPY  
AND DIAGNOSIS OF LUNG CANCER

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 The present application is related to U.S. Patent Application Nos. 576 Q1, filed September 26, 2000; 09/643,597, filed August 21, 2000; 09/630,940 filed August 2, 2000; 09/606,421 filed June 28, 2000; 09/542,615 filed April 4, 2000; 09/510,376 filed February 22, 2000; 09/480,884 filed January 10, 2000; 09/476,496 filed December 30, 1999; 09/466,396 filed December 17, 1999; 09/285,479 filed April 2, 1999; 10 09/221,107 filed December 22, 1998; 09/123,912 filed July 27, 1998; 09/040,802 filed March 18, 1998; each a CIP of the previous application and each pending; and PCT Nos. US99/05798 filed March 17, 1999, published, and US00/08896 filed April 4, 2000, pending; all incorporated by reference herein.

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

15 The present invention relates generally to therapy and diagnosis of cancer, such as lung cancer. The invention is more specifically related to polypeptides comprising at least a portion of a lung tumor protein, and to polynucleotides encoding such polypeptides. Such polypeptides and polynucleotides may be used in vaccines and pharmaceutical compositions for prevention and treatment of lung cancer, and for the 20 diagnosis and monitoring of such cancers.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Lung cancer is the primary cause of cancer death among both men and women in the U.S., with an estimated 172,000 new cases being reported in 1994. The five-year survival rate among all lung cancer patients, regardless of the stage of disease at 25 diagnosis, is only 13%. This contrasts with a five-year survival rate of 46% among cases detected while the disease is still localized. However, only 16% of lung cancers are discovered before the disease has spread.

Early detection is difficult since clinical symptoms are often not seen until the disease has reached an advanced stage. Currently, diagnosis is aided by the use of chest x-rays, analysis of the type of cells contained in sputum and fiberoptic examination of the bronchial passages. Treatment regimens are determined by the type and stage of the cancer, and include surgery, radiation therapy and/or chemotherapy. In spite of considerable research into therapies for the disease, lung cancer remains difficult to treat.

Accordingly, there remains a need in the art for improved vaccines, treatment methods and diagnostic techniques for lung cancer.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Briefly stated, the present invention provides compositions and methods for the diagnosis and therapy of cancer, such as lung cancer. In one aspect, the present invention provides polypeptides comprising at least a portion of a lung tumor protein, or a variant thereof. Certain portions and other variants are immunogenic, such that the ability of the variant to react with antigen-specific antisera is not substantially diminished. Within certain embodiments, the polypeptide comprises a sequence that is encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a) sequences recited in any one of SEQ ID NO: 1-3, 6-8, 10-13, 15-27, 29, 30, 32, 34-49, 51, 52, 54, 55, 57-59, 61-69, 71, 73, 74, 77, 78, 80-82, 84, 86-96, 107-109, 111, 113, 125, 127, 128, 129, 131-133, 142, 144, 148-151, 153, 154, 157, 158, 160, 167, 168, 171, 179, 182, 184-186, 188-191, 193, 194, 198-207, 209, 210, 213, 214, 217, 220-224, 253-337, 345, 347 and 349; (b) variants of a sequence recited in any one of SEQ ID NO: 1-3, 6-8, 10-13, 15-27, 29, 30, 32, 34-49, 51, 52, 54, 55, 57-59, 61-69, 71, 73, 74, 77, 78, 80-82, 84, 86-96, 107-109, 111, 113, 125, 127, 128, 129, 131-133, 142, 144, 148-151, 153, 154, 157, 158, 160, 167, 168, 171, 179, 182, 184-186, 188-191, 193, 194, 198-207, 209, 210, 213, 214, 217, 220-224, 253-337, 345, 347 and 349; and (c) complements of a sequence of (a) or (b). In specific embodiments, the polypeptides of the present invention comprise at least a portion of a tumor protein that includes an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of sequences recited in

any one of SEQ ID NO: 152, 155, 156, 165, 166, 169, 170, 172, 174, 176, 226-252, 338-344 and 346, and variants thereof.

The present invention further provides polynucleotides that encode a polypeptide as described above, or a portion thereof (such as a portion encoding at least 15 amino acid residues of a lung tumor protein), expression vectors comprising such polynucleotides and host cells transformed or transfected with such expression vectors.

Within other aspects, the present invention provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising a polypeptide or polynucleotide as described above and a physiologically acceptable carrier.

Within a related aspect of the present invention, vaccines for prophylactic or therapeutic use are provided. Such vaccines comprise a polypeptide or polynucleotide as described above and an immunostimulant.

The present invention further provides pharmaceutical compositions that comprise: (a) an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds to a lung tumor protein; and (b) a physiologically acceptable carrier.

Within further aspects, the present invention provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising: (a) an antigen presenting cell that expresses a polypeptide as described above and (b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient. Antigen presenting cells include dendritic cells, macrophages, monocytes, fibroblasts and B cells.

Within related aspects, vaccines are provided that comprise: (a) an antigen presenting cell that expresses a polypeptide as described above, and (b) an immunostimulant.

The present invention further provides, in other aspects, fusion proteins that comprise at least one polypeptide as described above, as well as polynucleotides encoding such fusion proteins.

Within related aspects, pharmaceutical compositions comprising a fusion protein, or a polynucleotide encoding a fusion protein, in combination with a physiologically acceptable carrier are provided.

Vaccines are further provided, within other aspects, that comprise a fusion protein, or a polynucleotide encoding a fusion protein, in combination with an immunostimulant.

5 Within further aspects, the present invention provides methods for inhibiting the development of a cancer in a patient, comprising administering to a patient a pharmaceutical composition or vaccine as recited above.

The present invention further provides, within other aspects, methods for removing tumor cells from a biological sample, comprising contacting a biological sample with T cells that specifically react with a lung tumor protein, wherein the step of contacting  
10 is performed under conditions and for a time sufficient to permit the removal of cells expressing the protein from the sample.

Within related aspects, methods are provided for inhibiting the development of a cancer in a patient, comprising administering to a patient a biological sample treated as described above.

15 Methods are further provided, within other aspects, for stimulating and/or expanding T cells specific for a lung tumor protein, comprising contacting T cells with one or more of: (i) a polypeptide as described above; (ii) a polynucleotide encoding such a polypeptide; and/or (iii) an antigen presenting cell that expresses such a polypeptide; under conditions and for a time sufficient to permit the stimulation and/or expansion of T cells.  
20 Determined T cell populations comprising T cells prepared as described above are also provided.

Within further aspects, the present invention provides methods for inhibiting the development of a cancer in a patient, comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of a T cell population as described above.

25 The present invention further provides methods for inhibiting the development of a cancer in a patient, comprising the steps of: (a) incubating CD4<sup>+</sup> and/or CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells determined from a patient with one or more of: (i) a polypeptide comprising at least an immunogenic portion of a lung tumor protein; (ii) a polynucleotide encoding such a polypeptide; and (iii) an antigen-presenting cell that expressed such a polypeptide;

and (b) administering to the patient an effective amount of the proliferated T cells, and thereby inhibiting the development of a cancer in the patient. Proliferated cells may, but need not, be cloned prior to administration to the patient.

- Within further aspects, the present invention provides methods for
- 5 determining the presence or absence of a cancer in a patient, comprising: (a) contacting a biological sample obtained from a patient with a binding agent that binds to a polypeptide as recited above; (b) detecting in the sample an amount of polypeptide that binds to the binding agent; and (c) comparing the amount of polypeptide with a predetermined cut-off value, and therefrom determining the presence or absence of a cancer in the patient.
  - 10 Within preferred embodiments, the binding agent is an antibody, more preferably a monoclonal antibody. The cancer may be lung cancer.

- The present invention also provides, within other aspects, methods for monitoring the progression of a cancer in a patient. Such methods comprise the steps of:
- 15 (a) contacting a biological sample obtained from a patient at a first point in time with a binding agent that binds to a polypeptide as recited above; (b) detecting in the sample an amount of polypeptide that binds to the binding agent; (c) repeating steps (a) and (b) using a biological sample obtained from the patient at a subsequent point in time; and (d) comparing the amount of polypeptide detected in step (c) with the amount detected in step (b) and therefrom monitoring the progression of the cancer in the patient.

- 20 The present invention further provides, within other aspects, methods for determining the presence or absence of a cancer in a patient, comprising the steps of: (a) contacting a biological sample obtained from a patient with an oligonucleotide that hybridizes to a polynucleotide that encodes a lung tumor protein; (b) detecting in the sample a level of a polynucleotide, preferably mRNA, that hybridizes to the
- 25 oligonucleotide; and (c) comparing the level of polynucleotide that hybridizes to the oligonucleotide with a predetermined cut-off value, and therefrom determining the presence or absence of a cancer in the patient. Within certain embodiments, the amount of mRNA is detected via polymerase chain reaction using, for example, at least one oligonucleotide primer that hybridizes to a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide as

recited above, or a complement of such a polynucleotide. Within other embodiments, the amount of mRNA is detected using a hybridization technique, employing an oligonucleotide probe that hybridizes to a polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide as recited above, or a complement of such a polynucleotide.

- 5 In related aspects, methods are provided for monitoring the progression of a cancer in a patient, comprising the steps of: (a) contacting a biological sample obtained from a patient with an oligonucleotide that hybridizes to a polynucleotide that encodes a lung tumor protein; (b) detecting in the sample an amount of a polynucleotide that hybridizes to the oligonucleotide; (c) repeating steps (a) and (b) using a biological sample  
10 obtained from the patient at a subsequent point in time; and (d) comparing the amount of polynucleotide detected in step (c) with the amount detected in step (b) and therefrom monitoring the progression of the cancer in the patient.

- Within further aspects, the present invention provides antibodies, such as monoclonal antibodies, that bind to a polypeptide as described above, as well as diagnostic  
15 kits comprising such antibodies. Diagnostic kits comprising one or more oligonucleotide probes or primers as described above are also provided.

These and other aspects of the present invention will become apparent upon reference to the following detailed description. All references disclosed herein are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety as if each was incorporated individually.

20

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES AND SEQUENCE IDENTIFIERS

- SEQ ID NO: 1 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S1-2  
SEQ ID NO: 2 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S1-28  
SEQ ID NO: 3 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S1-90  
25 SEQ ID NO: 4 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S1-144  
SEQ ID NO: 5 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S1-133  
SEQ ID NO: 6 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S1-169  
SEQ ID NO: 7 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-6

- SEQ ID NO: 8 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-11  
 SEQ ID NO: 9 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-17  
 SEQ ID NO: 10 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-25  
 SEQ ID NO: 11 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-39  
 5 SEQ ID NO: 12 is a first determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-43  
 SEQ ID NO: 13 is a second determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-43  
 SEQ ID NO: 14 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-65  
 SEQ ID NO: 15 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-68  
 SEQ ID NO: 16 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-72  
 10 SEQ ID NO: 17 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-74  
 SEQ ID NO: 18 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-103  
 SEQ ID NO: 19 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-N1-1F  
 SEQ ID NO: 20 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-N1-2A  
 SEQ ID NO: 21 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-N1-4H  
 15 SEQ ID NO: 22 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-N1-5A  
 SEQ ID NO: 23 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-N1-6B  
 SEQ ID NO: 24 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-N1-7B  
 SEQ ID NO: 25 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-N1-7H  
 SEQ ID NO: 26 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-N1-8A  
 20 SEQ ID NO: 27 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-N1-8D  
 SEQ ID NO: 28 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-N1-9A  
 SEQ ID NO: 29 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-N1-9E  
 SEQ ID NO: 30 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-N1-10A  
 SEQ ID NO: 31 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-N1-10G  
 25 SEQ ID NO: 32 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-N1-11A  
 SEQ ID NO: 33 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-N1-12C  
 SEQ ID NO: 34 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-N1-12E  
 SEQ ID NO: 35 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-B1-3D  
 SEQ ID NO: 36 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-B1-6C

- SEQ ID NO: 37 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-B1-5D  
 SEQ ID NO: 38 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-B1-5F  
 SEQ ID NO: 39 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-B1-6G  
 SEQ ID NO: 40 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-B1-8A  
 5 SEQ ID NO: 41 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-B1-8D  
 SEQ ID NO: 42 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-B1-10A  
 SEQ ID NO: 43 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-B1-9B  
 SEQ ID NO: 44 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-B1-9F  
 SEQ ID NO: 45 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-B1-12D  
 10 SEQ ID NO: 46 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-I2-2B  
 SEQ ID NO: 47 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-I2-5F  
 SEQ ID NO: 48 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-I2-6B  
 SEQ ID NO: 49 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-I2-7F  
 SEQ ID NO: 50 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-I2-8G  
 15 SEQ ID NO: 51 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-I2-9E  
 SEQ ID NO: 52 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-I2-12B  
 SEQ ID NO: 53 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-H2-2C  
 SEQ ID NO: 54 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-H2-1G  
 SEQ ID NO: 55 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-H2-4G  
 20 SEQ ID NO: 56 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-H2-3H  
 SEQ ID NO: 57 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-H2-5G  
 SEQ ID NO: 58 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-H2-9B  
 SEQ ID NO: 59 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-H2-10H  
 SEQ ID NO: 60 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S2-H2-12D  
 25 SEQ ID NO: 61 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S3-2  
 SEQ ID NO: 62 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S3-4  
 SEQ ID NO: 63 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S3-7  
 SEQ ID NO: 64 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S3-8  
 SEQ ID NO: 65 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S3-12



- SEQ ID NO: 66 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S3-13
- SEQ ID NO: 67 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S3-14
- SEQ ID NO: 68 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S3-16
- SEQ ID NO: 69 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S3-21
- 5 SEQ ID NO: 70 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S3-22
- SEQ ID NO: 71 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S1-7
- SEQ ID NO: 72 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S1-A-1E
- SEQ ID NO: 73 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S1-A-1G
- SEQ ID NO: 74 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S1-A-3E
- 10 SEQ ID NO: 75 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S1-A-4E
- SEQ ID NO: 76 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S1-A-6D
- SEQ ID NO: 77 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S1-A-8D
- SEQ ID NO: 78 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S1-A-10A
- SEQ ID NO: 79 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S1-A-10C
- 15 SEQ ID NO: 80 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S1-A-9D
- SEQ ID NO: 81 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S1-A-10D
- SEQ ID NO: 82 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S1-A-9H
- SEQ ID NO: 83 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S1-A-11D
- SEQ ID NO: 84 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S1-A-12D
- 20 SEQ ID NO: 85 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S1-A-11E
- SEQ ID NO: 86 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-S1-A-12E
- SEQ ID NO: 87 is the determined cDNA sequence for L513S (T3).
- SEQ ID NO: 88 is the determined cDNA sequence for L513S contig 1.
- SEQ ID NO: 89 is a first determined cDNA sequence for L514S.
- 25 SEQ ID NO: 90 is a second determined cDNA sequence for L514S.
- SEQ ID NO: 91 is a first determined cDNA sequence for L516S.
- SEQ ID NO: 92 is a second determined cDNA sequence for L516S.
- SEQ ID NO: 93 is the determined cDNA sequence for L517S.
- SEQ ID NO: 94 is the extended cDNA sequence for LST-S1-169 (also known as L519S).

- SEQ ID NO: 95 is a first determined cDNA sequence for L520S.  
 SEQ ID NO: 96 is a second determined cDNA sequence for L520S.  
 SEQ ID NO: 97 is a first determined cDNA sequence for L521S.  
 SEQ ID NO: 98 is a second determined cDNA sequence for L521S.
- 5 SEQ ID NO: 99 is the determined cDNA sequence for L522S.  
 SEQ ID NO: 100 is the determined cDNA sequence for L523S.  
 SEQ ID NO: 101 is the determined cDNA sequence for L524S.  
 SEQ ID NO: 102 is the determined cDNA sequence for L525S.  
 SEQ ID NO: 103 is the determined cDNA sequence for L526S.
- 10 SEQ ID NO: 104 is the determined cDNA sequence for L527S.  
 SEQ ID NO: 105 is the determined cDNA sequence for L528S.  
 SEQ ID NO: 106 is the determined cDNA sequence for L529S.  
 SEQ ID NO: 107 is a first determined cDNA sequence for L530S.  
 SEQ ID NO: 108 is a second determined cDNA sequence for L530S.
- 15 SEQ ID NO: 109 is the determined full-length cDNA sequence for L531S short form  
 SEQ ID NO: 110 is the predicted amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 109.  
 SEQ ID NO: 111 is the determined full-length cDNA sequence for L531S long form  
 SEQ ID NO: 112 is the predicted amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 111.  
 SEQ ID NO: 113 is the determined full-length cDNA sequence for L520S.
- 20 SEQ ID NO: 114 is the predicted amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 113.  
 SEQ ID NO: 115 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 1.  
 SEQ ID NO: 116 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 3.  
 SEQ ID NO: 117 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 4.  
 SEQ ID NO: 118 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 5.
- 25 SEQ ID NO: 119 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 7.  
 SEQ ID NO: 120 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 8.  
 SEQ ID NO: 121 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 9.  
 SEQ ID NO: 122 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 10.  
 SEQ ID NO: 123 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 12.

- SEQ ID NO: 124 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 11.
- SEQ ID NO: 125 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 13 (also known as L761P).
- SEQ ID NO: 126 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 15.
- SEQ ID NO: 127 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 16.
- 5 SEQ ID NO: 128 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 17.
- SEQ ID NO: 129 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 19.
- SEQ ID NO: 130 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 20.
- SEQ ID NO: 131 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 22.
- SEQ ID NO: 132 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 24.
- 10 SEQ ID NO: 133 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 29.
- SEQ ID NO: 134 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 31.
- SEQ ID NO: 135 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 33.
- SEQ ID NO: 136 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 38.
- SEQ ID NO: 137 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 39.
- 15 SEQ ID NO: 138 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 41.
- SEQ ID NO: 139 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 43.
- SEQ ID NO: 140 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 44.
- SEQ ID NO: 141 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 45.
- SEQ ID NO: 142 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 47.
- 20 SEQ ID NO: 143 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 48.
- SEQ ID NO: 144 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 49.
- SEQ ID NO: 145 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 50.
- SEQ ID NO: 146 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 53.
- SEQ ID NO: 147 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 54.
- 25 SEQ ID NO: 148 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 56.
- SEQ ID NO: 149 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 57.
- SEQ ID NO: 150 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 58.
- SEQ ID NO: 151 is the full-length cDNA sequence for L530S.
- SEQ ID NO: 152 is the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 151

- SEQ ID NO: 153 is the full-length cDNA sequence of a first variant of L514S
- SEQ ID NO: 154 is the full-length cDNA sequence of a second variant of L514S
- SEQ ID NO: 155 is the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 153.
- SEQ ID NO: 156 is the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 154.
- 5 SEQ ID NO: 157 is the determined cDNA sequence for contig 59.
- SEQ ID NO: 158 is the full-length cDNA sequence for L763P (also referred to as contig 22).
- SEQ ID NO: 159 is the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 158.
- SEQ ID NO: 160 is the full-length cDNA sequence for L762P (also referred to as contig 17).
- 10 SEQ ID NO: 161 is the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 160.
- SEQ ID NO: 162 is the determined cDNA sequence for L515S.
- SEQ ID NO: 163 is the full-length cDNA sequence of a first variant of L524S.
- SEQ ID NO: 164 is the full-length cDNA sequence of a second variant of L524S.
- 15 SEQ ID NO: 165 is the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 163.
- SEQ ID NO: 166 is the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 164.
- SEQ ID NO: 167 is the full-length cDNA sequence of a first variant of L762P.
- SEQ ID NO: 168 is the full-length cDNA sequence of a second variant of L762P.
- SEQ ID NO: 169 is the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 167.
- 20 SEQ ID NO: 170 is the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 168.
- SEQ ID NO: 171 is the full-length cDNA sequence for L773P (also referred to as contig 56).
- SEQ ID NO: 172 is the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 171.
- SEQ ID NO: 173 is an extended cDNA sequence for L519S.
- 25 SEQ ID NO: 174 is the predicted amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 174.
- SEQ ID NO: 175 is the full-length cDNA sequence for L523S.
- SEQ ID NO: 176 is the predicted amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 175.
- SEQ ID NO: 177 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub5-7A.
- SEQ ID NO: 178 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub5-8G.

- SEQ ID NO: 179 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub5-8H.  
 SEQ ID NO: 180 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub5-10B.  
 SEQ ID NO: 181 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub5-10H.  
 SEQ ID NO: 182 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub5-12B.  
 5 SEQ ID NO: 183 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub5-11C.  
 SEQ ID NO: 184 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-1c.  
 SEQ ID NO: 185 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-2f.  
 SEQ ID NO: 186 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-2G.  
 SEQ ID NO: 187 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-4d.  
 10 SEQ ID NO: 188 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-4e.  
 SEQ ID NO: 189 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-4f.  
 SEQ ID NO: 190 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-3h.  
 SEQ ID NO: 191 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-5d.  
 SEQ ID NO: 192 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-5h.  
 15 SEQ ID NO: 193 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-6h.  
 SEQ ID NO: 194 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-7a.  
 SEQ ID NO: 195 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-8a.  
 SEQ ID NO: 196 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-7d.  
 SEQ ID NO: 197 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-7e.  
 20 SEQ ID NO: 198 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-8e.  
 SEQ ID NO: 199 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-7g.  
 SEQ ID NO: 200 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-9f.  
 SEQ ID NO: 201 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-9h.  
 SEQ ID NO: 202 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-11b.  
 25 SEQ ID NO: 203 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-11c.  
 SEQ ID NO: 204 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-12c.  
 SEQ ID NO: 205 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-12e.  
 SEQ ID NO: 206 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-12f.  
 SEQ ID NO: 207 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-11g.

- SEQ ID NO: 208 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-12g.  
 SEQ ID NO: 209 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-12h.  
 SEQ ID NO: 210 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-II-1a.  
 SEQ ID NO: 211 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-II-2b.  
 5 SEQ ID NO: 212 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-II-2g.  
 SEQ ID NO: 213 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-II-1h.  
 SEQ ID NO: 214 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-II-4a.  
 SEQ ID NO: 215 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-II-4b.  
 SEQ ID NO: 216 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-II-3e.  
 10 SEQ ID NO: 217 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-II-4f.  
 SEQ ID NO: 218 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-II-4g.  
 SEQ ID NO: 219 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-II-4h.  
 SEQ ID NO: 220 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-II-5c.  
 SEQ ID NO: 221 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-II-5e.  
 15 SEQ ID NO: 222 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-II-6f.  
 SEQ ID NO: 223 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-II-5g.  
 SEQ ID NO: 224 is the determined cDNA sequence for LST-sub6-II-6g.  
 SEQ ID NO: 225 is the amino acid sequence for L528S.  
 SEQ ID NO: 226-251 are synthetic peptides derived from L762P.  
 20 SEQ ID NO: 252 is the expressed amino acid sequence of L514S.  
 SEQ ID NO: 253 is the DNA sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 252.  
 SEQ ID NO: 254 is the DNA sequence of a L762P expression construct.  
 SEQ ID NO: 255 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23785.  
 SEQ ID NO: 256 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23786.  
 25 SEQ ID NO: 257 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23788.  
 SEQ ID NO: 258 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23790.  
 SEQ ID NO: 259 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23793.  
 SEQ ID NO: 260 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23794.  
 SEQ ID NO: 261 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23795.

- SEQ ID NO: 262 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23796.  
SEQ ID NO: 263 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23797.  
SEQ ID NO: 264 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23798.  
SEQ ID NO: 265 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23799.  
5 SEQ ID NO: 266 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23800.  
SEQ ID NO: 267 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23802.  
SEQ ID NO: 268 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23803.  
SEQ ID NO: 269 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23804.  
SEQ ID NO: 270 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23805.  
10 SEQ ID NO: 271 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23806.  
SEQ ID NO: 272 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23807.  
SEQ ID NO: 273 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23808.  
SEQ ID NO: 274 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23809.  
SEQ ID NO: 275 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23810.  
15 SEQ ID NO: 276 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23811.  
SEQ ID NO: 277 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23812.  
SEQ ID NO: 278 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23813.  
SEQ ID NO: 279 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 23815.  
SEQ ID NO: 280 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25298.  
20 SEQ ID NO: 281 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25299.  
SEQ ID NO: 282 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25300.  
SEQ ID NO: 283 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25301  
SEQ ID NO: 284 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25304  
SEQ ID NO: 285 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25309.  
25 SEQ ID NO: 286 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25312.  
SEQ ID NO: 287 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25317.  
SEQ ID NO: 288 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25321.  
SEQ ID NO: 289 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25323.  
SEQ ID NO: 290 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25327.

- SEQ ID NO: 291 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25328.  
SEQ ID NO: 292 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25332.  
SEQ ID NO: 293 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25333.  
SEQ ID NO: 294 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25336.  
5 SEQ ID NO: 295 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25340.  
SEQ ID NO: 296 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25342.  
SEQ ID NO: 297 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25356.  
SEQ ID NO: 298 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25357.  
SEQ ID NO: 299 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25361.  
10 SEQ ID NO: 300 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25363.  
SEQ ID NO: 301 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25397.  
SEQ ID NO: 302 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25402.  
SEQ ID NO: 303 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25403.  
SEQ ID NO: 304 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25405.  
15 SEQ ID NO: 305 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25407.  
SEQ ID NO: 306 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25409.  
SEQ ID NO: 307 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25396.  
SEQ ID NO: 308 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25414.  
SEQ ID NO: 309 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25410.  
20 SEQ ID NO: 310 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25406.  
SEQ ID NO: 311 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25306.  
SEQ ID NO: 312 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25362.  
SEQ ID NO: 313 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25360.  
SEQ ID NO: 314 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25398.  
25 SEQ ID NO: 315 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25355.  
SEQ ID NO: 316 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25351.  
SEQ ID NO: 317 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25331.  
SEQ ID NO: 318 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25338.  
SEQ ID NO: 319 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25335.



- SEQ ID NO: 320 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25329.  
 SEQ ID NO: 321 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25324.  
 SEQ ID NO: 322 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25322.  
 SEQ ID NO: 323 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25319.  
 5 SEQ ID NO: 324 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25316.  
 SEQ ID NO: 325 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25311.  
 SEQ ID NO: 326 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25310.  
 SEQ ID NO: 327 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25302.  
 SEQ ID NO: 328 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25315.  
 10 SEQ ID NO: 329 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25308.  
 SEQ ID NO: 330 is the determined cDNA sequence for clone 25303.  
 SEQ ID NO: 331-337 are the cDNA sequences of isoforms of the p53 tumor suppressor  
 homologue, p63 (also referred to as L530S).  
 SEQ ID NO: 338-344 are the amino acid sequences encoded by SEQ ID NO: 331-337,  
 15 respectively.  
 SEQ ID NO: 345 is a second cDNA sequence for the antigen L763P.  
 SEQ ID NO: 346 is the amino acid sequence encoded by the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 345.  
 SEQ ID NO: 347 is a determined full-length cDNA sequence for L523S.  
 SEQ ID NO: 348 is the predicted amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 347.  
 20 SEQ ID NO: 349 is the cDNA sequence encoding the N-terminal portion of L773P.  
 SEQ ID NO: 350 is the amino acid sequence of the N-terminal portion of L773P.  
 SEQ ID NO: 351 is polynucleotide sequence encoding the fusion of Ra12 and the N-  
 terminal portion of L763P  
 SEQ ID NO: 352 is the amino acid sequence of the fusion of Ra12 and the N-terminal  
 25 portion of L763P  
 SEQ ID NO: 353 is polynucleotide sequence encoding the fusion of Ra12 and the C-  
 terminal portion of L763P  
 SEQ ID NO: 354 is the amino acid sequence of the fusion of Ra12 and the C-terminal  
 portion of L763P

SEQ ID NO:355 is a primer.

SEQ ID NO:356 is a primer.

SEQ ID NO:357 is the protein sequence of expressed recombinant L762P.

SEQ ID NO:358 is the DNA sequence of expressed recombinant L762P.

5 SEQ ID NO:359 is a primer.

SEQ ID NO:360 is a primer.

SEQ ID NO:361 is the protein sequence of expressed recombinant L773P A.

SEQ ID NO:362 is the DNA sequence of expressed recombinant L773P A.

SEQ ID NO:363 is an epitope derived from clone L773P polypeptide.

10 SEQ ID NO:364 is a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:363.

SEQ ID NO:365 is an epitope derived from clone L773P polypeptide.

SEQ ID NO:366 is a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:365.

SEQ ID NO:367 is an epitope consisting of amino acids 571-590 of SEQ ID NO:161, clone L762.

15 SEQ ID NO:368 is the full-length DNA sequence for contig 13 (SEQ ID NO:125), also referred to as L761P.

SEQ ID NO:369 is the protein sequence encoded by the DNA sequence of SEQ ID NO:368.

SEQ ID NO:370 is an L762P DNA sequence from nucleotides 2071-2130.

20 SEQ ID NO:371 is an L762P DNA sequence from nucleotides 1441-1500.

SEQ ID NO:372 is an L762P DNA sequence from nucleotides 1936-1955.

SEQ ID NO:373 is an L762P DNA sequence from nucleotides 2620-2679.

SEQ ID NO:374 is an L762P DNA sequence from nucleotides 1801-1860.

SEQ ID NO:375 is an L762P DNA sequence from nucleotides 1531-1591.

25 SEQ ID NO:376 is the amino acid sequence of the L762P peptide encoded by SEQ ID NO: 373.

SEQ ID NO:377 is the amino acid sequence of the L762P peptide encoded by SEQ ID NO: 370.

SEQ ID NO:378 is the amino acid sequence of the L762P peptide encoded by SEQ ID NO: 372.

SEQ ID NO:379 is the amino acid sequence of the L762P peptide encoded by SEQ ID NO: 374.

5 SEQ ID NO:380 is the amino acid sequence of the L762P peptide encoded by SEQ ID NO: 371.

SEQ ID NO:381 is the amino acid sequence of the L762P peptide encoded by SEQ ID NO: 375.

Figure 1 shows the sequences of eleven L773P peptides.

10 Figure 2 shows that three CD4T cell lines (3C, 6G and 12B) recognized the appropriate L773P peptide as well as recombinant L773P and L773PA.

Figure 3 shows that individual CD4 T cell lines demonstrated cytokine release (IFN gamma) in response to the stimulating peptide but not the control peptide.

## 15 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

As noted above, the present invention is generally directed to compositions and methods for the therapy and diagnosis of cancer, such as lung cancer. The compositions described herein may include lung tumor polypeptides, polynucleotides encoding such polypeptides, binding agents such as antibodies, antigen presenting cells (APCs) and/or immune system cells (*e.g.*, T cells). Polypeptides of the present invention  
20 generally comprise at least a portion (such as an immunogenic portion) of a lung tumor protein or a variant thereof. A "lung tumor protein" is a protein that is expressed in lung tumor cells at a level that is at least two fold, and preferably at least five fold, greater than the level of expression in a normal tissue, as determined using a representative assay  
25 provided herein. Certain lung tumor proteins are tumor proteins that react detectably (within an immunoassay, such as an ELISA or Western blot) with antisera of a patient afflicted with lung cancer. Polynucleotides of the subject invention generally comprise a DNA or RNA sequence that encodes all or a portion of such a polypeptide, or that is

complementary to such a sequence. Antibodies are generally immune system proteins, or antigen-binding fragments thereof, that are capable of binding to a polypeptide as described above. Antigen presenting cells include dendritic cells, macrophages, monocytes, fibroblasts and B-cells that express a polypeptide as described above. T cells that may be employed within such compositions are generally T cells that are specific for a polypeptide as described above.

The present invention is based on the discovery human lung tumor proteins. Sequences of polynucleotides encoding specific tumor proteins are provided in SEQ ID NO: 1-109, 111, 113, 115-151, 153, 154, 157, 158, 160, 162-164, 167, 168, 171, 173, 175, 177-224, 255-337, 345, 347 and 349.

Therefore, in accordance with the above, and as described further below, the present invention provides illustrative polynucleotide compositions having sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1-109, 111, 113, 115-151, 153, 154, 157, 158, 160, 162-164, 167, 168, 171, 173, 175, 177-224, 255-337, 345, 347 and 349, illustrative polypeptide compositions having amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO: 110, 112, 114, 152, 155, 156, 159, 161, 165, 166, 169, 170, 172, 174, 176, 225, 252, 338-344, 346, 348, and 350, antibody compositions capable of binding such polypeptides, and numerous additional embodiments employing such compositions, for example in the detection, diagnosis and/or therapy of human lung cancer.

## 20 POLYNUCLEOTIDE COMPOSITIONS

As used herein, the terms "DNA segment" and "polynucleotide" refer to a DNA molecule that has been isolated free of total genomic DNA of a particular species. Therefore, a DNA segment encoding a polypeptide refers to a DNA segment that contains one or more coding sequences yet is substantially isolated away from, or purified free from, total genomic DNA of the species from which the DNA segment is obtained. Included within the terms "DNA segment" and "polynucleotide" are DNA segments and smaller fragments of such segments, and also recombinant vectors, including, for example, plasmids, cosmids, phagemids, phage, viruses, and the like.

As will be understood by those skilled in the art, the DNA segments of this invention can include genomic sequences, extra-genomic and plasmid-encoded sequences and smaller engineered gene segments that express, or may be adapted to express, proteins, polypeptides, peptides and the like. Such segments may be naturally isolated, or modified  
 5 synthetically by the hand of man.

"Isolated," as used herein, means that a polynucleotide is substantially away from other coding sequences, and that the DNA segment does not contain large portions of unrelated coding DNA, such as large chromosomal fragments or other functional genes or polypeptide coding regions. Of course, this refers to the DNA segment as originally  
 10 isolated, and does not exclude genes or coding regions later added to the segment by the hand of man.

As will be recognized by the skilled artisan, polynucleotides may be single-stranded (coding or antisense) or double-stranded, and may be DNA (genomic, cDNA or synthetic) or RNA molecules. RNA molecules include HnRNA molecules, which contain  
 15 introns and correspond to a DNA molecule in a one-to-one manner, and mRNA molecules, which do not contain introns. Additional coding or non-coding sequences may, but need not, be present within a polynucleotide of the present invention, and a polynucleotide may, but need not, be linked to other molecules and/or support materials.

Polynucleotides may comprise a native sequence (*i.e.*, an endogenous  
 20 sequence that encodes a lung tumor protein or a portion thereof) or may comprise a variant, or a biological or antigenic functional equivalent of such a sequence. Polynucleotide variants may contain one or more substitutions, additions, deletions and/or insertions, as further described below, preferably such that the immunogenicity of the encoded polypeptide is not diminished, relative to a native tumor protein. The effect on the  
 25 immunogenicity of the encoded polypeptide may generally be assessed as described herein. The term "variants" also encompasses homologous genes of xenogenic origin.

When comparing polynucleotide or polypeptide sequences, two sequences are said to be "identical" if the sequence of nucleotides or amino acids in the two sequences is the same when aligned for maximum correspondence, as described below. Comparisons

between two sequences are typically performed by comparing the sequences over a comparison window to identify and compare local regions of sequence similarity. A “comparison window” as used herein, refers to a segment of at least about 20 contiguous positions, usually 30 to about 75, 40 to about 50, in which a sequence may be compared to a reference sequence of the same number of contiguous positions after the two sequences are optimally aligned.

Optimal alignment of sequences for comparison may be conducted using the Megalign program in the Lasergene suite of bioinformatics software (DNASTAR, Inc., Madison, WI), using default parameters. This program embodies several alignment schemes described in the following references: Dayhoff, M.O. (1978) A model of evolutionary change in proteins – Matrices for detecting distant relationships. In Dayhoff, M.O. (ed.) *Atlas of Protein Sequence and Structure*, National Biomedical Research Foundation, Washington DC Vol. 5, Suppl. 3, pp. 345-358; Hein J. (1990) Unified Approach to Alignment and Phylogenies pp. 626-645 *Methods in Enzymology* vol. 183, Academic Press, Inc., San Diego, CA; Higgins, D.G. and Sharp, P.M. (1989) *CABIOS* 5:151-153; Myers, E.W. and Muller W. (1988) *CABIOS* 4:11-17; Robinson, E.D. (1971) *Comb. Theor* 11:105; Santou, N. Nes, M. (1987) *Mol. Biol. Evol.* 4:406-425; Sneath, P.H.A. and Sokal, R.R. (1973) *Numerical Taxonomy – the Principles and Practice of Numerical Taxonomy*, Freeman Press, San Francisco, CA; Wilbur, W.J. and Lipman, D.J. (1983) *Proc. Natl. Acad., Sci. USA* 80:726-730.

Alternatively, optimal alignment of sequences for comparison may be conducted by the local identity algorithm of Smith and Waterman (1981) *Add. APL. Math* 2:482, by the identity alignment algorithm of Needleman and Wunsch (1970) *J. Mol. Biol.* 48:443, by the search for similarity methods of Pearson and Lipman (1988) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 85: 2444, by computerized implementations of these algorithms (GAP, BESTFIT, BLAST, FASTA, and TFASTA in the Wisconsin Genetics Software Package, Genetics Computer Group (GCG), 575 Science Dr., Madison, WI), or by inspection.

One preferred example of algorithms that are suitable for determining percent sequence identity and sequence similarity are the BLAST and BLAST 2.0

algorithms, which are described in Altschul *et al.* (1977) *Nucl. Acids Res.* 25:3389-3402 and Altschul *et al.* (1990) *J. Mol. Biol.* 215:403-410, respectively. BLAST and BLAST 2.0 can be used, for example with the parameters described herein, to determine percent sequence identity for the polynucleotides and polypeptides of the invention. Software for performing BLAST analyses is publicly available through the National Center for Biotechnology Information. In one illustrative example, cumulative scores can be calculated using, for nucleotide sequences, the parameters M (reward score for a pair of matching residues; always >0) and N (penalty score for mismatching residues; always <0). For amino acid sequences, a scoring matrix can be used to calculate the cumulative score.

Extension of the word hits in each direction are halted when: the cumulative alignment score falls off by the quantity X from its maximum achieved value; the cumulative score goes to zero or below, due to the accumulation of one or more negative-scoring residue alignments; or the end of either sequence is reached. The BLAST algorithm parameters W, T and X determine the sensitivity and speed of the alignment. The BLASTN program (for nucleotide sequences) uses as defaults a wordlength (W) of 11, and expectation (E) of 10, and the BLOSUM62 scoring matrix (see Henikoff and Henikoff (1989) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 89:10915) alignments, (B) of 50, expectation (E) of 10, M=5, N=-4 and a comparison of both strands.

Preferably, the "percentage of sequence identity" is determined by comparing two optimally aligned sequences over a window of comparison of at least 20 positions, wherein the portion of the polynucleotide or polypeptide sequence in the comparison window may comprise additions or deletions (*i.e.*, gaps) of 20 percent or less, usually 5 to 15 percent, or 10 to 12 percent, as compared to the reference sequences (which does not comprise additions or deletions) for optimal alignment of the two sequences. The percentage is calculated by determining the number of positions at which the identical nucleic acid bases or amino acid residue occurs in both sequences to yield the number of matched positions, dividing the number of matched positions by the total number of positions in the reference sequence (*i.e.*, the window size) and multiplying the results by 100 to yield the percentage of sequence identity.

Therefore, the present invention encompasses polynucleotide and polypeptide sequences having substantial identity to the sequences disclosed herein, for example those comprising at least 50% sequence identity, preferably at least 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% or higher, sequence identity compared to a polynucleotide or polypeptide sequence of this invention using the methods described herein, (*e.g.*, BLAST analysis using standard parameters, as described below). One skilled in this art will recognize that these values can be appropriately adjusted to determine corresponding identity of proteins encoded by two nucleotide sequences by taking into account codon degeneracy, amino acid similarity, reading frame positioning and the like.

In additional embodiments, the present invention provides isolated polynucleotides and polypeptides comprising various lengths of contiguous stretches of sequence identical to or complementary to one or more of the sequences disclosed herein. For example, polynucleotides are provided by this invention that comprise at least about 15, 20, 30, 40, 50, 75, 100, 150, 200, 300, 400, 500 or 1000 or more contiguous nucleotides of one or more of the sequences disclosed herein as well as all intermediate lengths there between. It will be readily understood that "intermediate lengths", in this context, means any length between the quoted values, such as 16, 17, 18, 19, *etc.*; 21, 22, 23, *etc.*; 30, 31, 32, *etc.*; 50, 51, 52, 53, *etc.*; 100, 101, 102, 103, *etc.*; 150, 151, 152, 153, *etc.*; including all integers through 200-500; 500-1,000, and the like.

The polynucleotides of the present invention, or fragments thereof, regardless of the length of the coding sequence itself, may be combined with other DNA sequences, such as promoters, polyadenylation signals, additional restriction enzyme sites, multiple cloning sites, other coding segments, and the like, such that their overall length may vary considerably. It is therefore contemplated that a nucleic acid fragment of almost any length may be employed, with the total length preferably being limited by the ease of preparation and use in the intended recombinant DNA protocol. For example, illustrative DNA segments with total lengths of about 10,000, about 5000, about 3000, about 2,000, about 1,000, about 500, about 200, about 100, about 50 base pairs in length, and the like,



(including all intermediate lengths) are contemplated to be useful in many implementations of this invention.

In other embodiments, the present invention is directed to polynucleotides that are capable of hybridizing under moderately stringent conditions to a polynucleotide sequence provided herein, or a fragment thereof, or a complementary sequence thereof. Hybridization techniques are well known in the art of molecular biology. For purposes of illustration, suitable moderately stringent conditions for testing the hybridization of a polynucleotide of this invention with other polynucleotides include prewashing in a solution of 5 X SSC, 0.5% SDS, 1.0 mM EDTA (pH 8.0); hybridizing at 50°C-65°C, 5 X SSC, overnight; followed by washing twice at 65°C for 20 minutes with each of 2X, 0.5X and 0.2X SSC containing 0.1% SDS.

Moreover, it will be appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art that, as a result of the degeneracy of the genetic code, there are many nucleotide sequences that encode a polypeptide as described herein. Some of these polynucleotides bear minimal homology to the nucleotide sequence of any native gene. Nonetheless, polynucleotides that vary due to differences in codon usage are specifically contemplated by the present invention. Further, alleles of the genes comprising the polynucleotide sequences provided herein are within the scope of the present invention. Alleles are endogenous genes that are altered as a result of one or more mutations, such as deletions, additions and/or substitutions of nucleotides. The resulting mRNA and protein may, but need not, have an altered structure or function. Alleles may be identified using standard techniques (such as hybridization, amplification and/or database sequence comparison).

Any polynucleotide that encodes a lung tumor protein or a portion or other variant thereof as described herein is encompassed by the present invention. Preferred polynucleotides comprise at least 15 consecutive nucleotides, preferably at least 30 consecutive nucleotides and more preferably at least 45 consecutive nucleotides, that encode a portion of a lung tumor protein. More preferably, a polynucleotide encodes an immunogenic portion of a lung tumor protein. Polynucleotides complementary to any such sequences are also encompassed by the present invention. Polynucleotides may be single-

stranded (coding or antisense) or double-stranded, and may be DNA (genomic, cDNA or synthetic) or RNA molecules. RNA molecules include HnRNA molecules, which contain introns and correspond to a DNA molecule in a one-to-one manner, and mRNA molecules, which do not contain introns. Additional coding or non-coding sequences may, but need not, be present within a polynucleotide of the present invention, and a polynucleotide may, but need not, be linked to other molecules and/or support materials.

### PROBES AND PRIMERS

In other embodiments of the present invention, the polynucleotide sequences provided herein can be advantageously used as probes or primers for nucleic acid hybridization. As such, it is contemplated that nucleic acid segments that comprise a sequence region of at least about 15 nucleotide long contiguous sequence that has the same sequence as, or is complementary to, a 15 nucleotide long contiguous sequence disclosed herein will find particular utility. Longer contiguous identical or complementary sequences, *e.g.*, those of about 20, 30, 40, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000 (including all intermediate lengths) and even up to full length sequences will also be of use in certain embodiments.

The ability of such nucleic acid probes to specifically hybridize to a sequence of interest will enable them to be of use in detecting the presence of complementary sequences in a given sample. However, other uses are also envisioned, such as the use of the sequence information for the preparation of mutant species primers, or primers for use in preparing other genetic constructions.

Polynucleotide molecules having sequence regions consisting of contiguous nucleotide stretches of 10-14, 15-20, 30, 50, or even of 100-200 nucleotides or so (including intermediate lengths as well), identical or complementary to a polynucleotide sequence disclosed herein, are particularly contemplated as hybridization probes for use in, *e.g.*, Southern and Northern blotting. This would allow a gene product, or fragment thereof, to be analyzed, both in diverse cell types and also in various bacterial cells. The total size of fragment, as well as the size of the complementary stretch(es), will ultimately

depend on the intended use or application of the particular nucleic acid segment. Smaller fragments will generally find use in hybridization embodiments, wherein the length of the contiguous complementary region may be varied, such as between about 15 and about 100 nucleotides, but larger contiguous complementarity stretches may be used, according to the  
 5 length complementary sequences one wishes to detect.

The use of a hybridization probe of about 15-25 nucleotides in length allows the formation of a duplex molecule that is both stable and selective. Molecules having contiguous complementary sequences over stretches greater than 15 bases in length are generally preferred, though, in order to increase stability and selectivity of the hybrid, and  
 10 thereby improve the quality and degree of specific hybrid molecules obtained. One will generally prefer to design nucleic acid molecules having gene-complementary stretches of 15 to 25 contiguous nucleotides, or even longer where desired.

Hybridization probes may be selected from any portion of any of the sequences disclosed herein. All that is required is to review the sequence set forth in SEQ  
 15 ID NO:1-109, 111, 113, 115-151, 153, 154, 157, 158, 160, 162-164, 167, 168, 171, 173, 175, 177-224, 255-337, 345, 347 and 349, or to any continuous portion of the sequence, from about 15-25 nucleotides in length up to and including the full length sequence, that one wishes to utilize as a probe or primer. The choice of probe and primer sequences may be governed by various factors. For example, one may wish to employ primers from  
 20 towards the termini of the total sequence.

Small polynucleotide segments or fragments may be readily prepared by, for example, directly synthesizing the fragment by chemical means, as is commonly practiced using an automated oligonucleotide synthesizer. Also, fragments may be obtained by application of nucleic acid reproduction technology, such as the PCR™ technology of U. S.  
 25 Patent 4,683,202 (incorporated herein by reference), by introducing selected sequences into recombinant vectors for recombinant production, and by other recombinant DNA techniques generally known to those of skill in the art of molecular biology.

The nucleotide sequences of the invention may be used for their ability to selectively form duplex molecules with complementary stretches of the entire gene or gene

fragments of interest. Depending on the application envisioned, one will typically desire to employ varying conditions of hybridization to achieve varying degrees of selectivity of probe towards target sequence. For applications requiring high selectivity, one will typically desire to employ relatively stringent conditions to form the hybrids, *e.g.*, one will  
 5 select relatively low salt and/or high temperature conditions, such as provided by a salt concentration of from about 0.02 M to about 0.15 M salt at temperatures of from about 50°C to about 70°C. Such selective conditions tolerate little, if any, mismatch between the probe and the template or target strand, and would be particularly suitable for isolating related sequences.

10 Of course, for some applications, for example, where one desires to prepare mutants employing a mutant primer strand hybridized to an underlying template, less stringent (reduced stringency) hybridization conditions will typically be needed in order to allow formation of the heteroduplex. In these circumstances, one may desire to employ salt conditions such as those of from about 0.15 M to about 0.9 M salt, at temperatures ranging  
 15 from about 20°C to about 55°C. Cross-hybridizing species can thereby be readily identified as positively hybridizing signals with respect to control hybridizations. In any case, it is generally appreciated that conditions can be rendered more stringent by the addition of increasing amounts of formamide, which serves to destabilize the hybrid duplex in the same manner as increased temperature. Thus, hybridization conditions can be  
 20 readily manipulated, and thus will generally be a method of choice depending on the desired results.

#### POLYNUCLEOTIDE IDENTIFICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION

Polynucleotides may be identified, prepared and/or manipulated using any of a variety of well established techniques. For example, a polynucleotide may be  
 25 identified, as described in more detail below, by screening a microarray of cDNAs for tumor-associated expression (*i.e.*, expression that is at least two fold greater in a tumor than in normal tissue, as determined using a representative assay provided herein). Such screens may be performed, for example, using a Synteni microarray (Palo Alto, CA) according to

the manufacturer's instructions (and essentially as described by Schena *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 93:10614-10619, 1996 and Heller *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 94:2150-2155, 1997). Alternatively, polynucleotides may be amplified from cDNA prepared from cells expressing the proteins described herein, such as lung tumor cells.

- 5 Such polynucleotides may be amplified via polymerase chain reaction (PCR). For this approach, sequence-specific primers may be designed based on the sequences provided herein, and may be purchased or synthesized.

An amplified portion of a polynucleotide of the present invention may be used to isolate a full length gene from a suitable library (*e.g.*, a lung tumor cDNA library) using well known techniques. Within such techniques, a library (cDNA or genomic) is screened using one or more polynucleotide probes or primers suitable for amplification. Preferably, a library is size-selected to include larger molecules. Random primed libraries may also be preferred for identifying 5' and upstream regions of genes. Genomic libraries are preferred for obtaining introns and extending 5' sequences.

- 15 For hybridization techniques, a partial sequence may be labeled (*e.g.*, by nick-translation or end-labeling with  $^{32}\text{P}$ ) using well known techniques. A bacterial or bacteriophage library is then generally screened by hybridizing filters containing denatured bacterial colonies (or lawns containing phage plaques) with the labeled probe (*see* Sambrook *et al.*, *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, 1989). Hybridizing colonies or plaques are selected and expanded, and the DNA is isolated for further analysis. cDNA clones may be analyzed to determine the amount of additional sequence by, for example, PCR using a primer from the partial sequence and a primer from the vector. Restriction maps and partial sequences may be generated to identify one or more overlapping clones. The complete sequence may then be determined using standard techniques, which may involve generating a series of deletion clones. The resulting overlapping sequences can then assembled into a single contiguous sequence. A full length cDNA molecule can be generated by ligating suitable fragments, using well known techniques.
- 20
- 25

Alternatively, there are numerous amplification techniques for obtaining a full length coding sequence from a partial cDNA sequence. Within such techniques, amplification is generally performed via PCR. Any of a variety of commercially available kits may be used to perform the amplification step. Primers may be designed using, for example, software well known in the art. Primers are preferably 22-30 nucleotides in length, have a GC content of at least 50% and anneal to the target sequence at temperatures of about 68°C to 72°C. The amplified region may be sequenced as described above, and overlapping sequences assembled into a contiguous sequence.

One such amplification technique is inverse PCR (*see* Triglia *et al.*, *Nucl. Acids Res.* 16:8186, 1988), which uses restriction enzymes to generate a fragment in the known region of the gene. The fragment is then circularized by intramolecular ligation and used as a template for PCR with divergent primers derived from the known region. Within an alternative approach, sequences adjacent to a partial sequence may be retrieved by amplification with a primer to a linker sequence and a primer specific to a known region. The amplified sequences are typically subjected to a second round of amplification with the same linker primer and a second primer specific to the known region. A variation on this procedure, which employs two primers that initiate extension in opposite directions from the known sequence, is described in WO 96/38591. Another such technique is known as "rapid amplification of cDNA ends" or RACE. This technique involves the use of an internal primer and an external primer, which hybridizes to a polyA region or vector sequence, to identify sequences that are 5' and 3' of a known sequence. Additional techniques include capture PCR (Lagerstrom *et al.*, *PCR Methods Applic.* 1:111-19, 1991) and walking PCR (Parker *et al.*, *Nucl. Acids. Res.* 19:3055-60, 1991). Other methods employing amplification may also be employed to obtain a full length cDNA sequence.

In certain instances, it is possible to obtain a full length cDNA sequence by analysis of sequences provided in an expressed sequence tag (EST) database, such as that available from GenBank. Searches for overlapping ESTs may generally be performed using well known programs (*e.g.*, NCBI BLAST searches), and such ESTs may be used to

generate a contiguous full length sequence. Full length DNA sequences may also be obtained by analysis of genomic fragments.

### POLYNUCLEOTIDE EXPRESSION IN HOST CELLS

In other embodiments of the invention, polynucleotide sequences or fragments thereof which encode polypeptides of the invention, or fusion proteins or functional equivalents thereof, may be used in recombinant DNA molecules to direct expression of a polypeptide in appropriate host cells. Due to the inherent degeneracy of the genetic code, other DNA sequences that encode substantially the same or a functionally equivalent amino acid sequence may be produced and these sequences may be used to clone and express a given polypeptide.

As will be understood by those of skill in the art, it may be advantageous in some instances to produce polypeptide-encoding nucleotide sequences possessing non-naturally occurring codons. For example, codons preferred by a particular prokaryotic or eukaryotic host can be selected to increase the rate of protein expression or to produce a recombinant RNA transcript having desirable properties, such as a half-life which is longer than that of a transcript generated from the naturally occurring sequence.

Moreover, the polynucleotide sequences of the present invention can be engineered using methods generally known in the art in order to alter polypeptide encoding sequences for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to, alterations which modify the cloning, processing, and/or expression of the gene product. For example, DNA shuffling by random fragmentation and PCR reassembly of gene fragments and synthetic oligonucleotides may be used to engineer the nucleotide sequences. In addition, site-directed mutagenesis may be used to insert new restriction sites, alter glycosylation patterns, change codon preference, produce splice variants, or introduce mutations, and so forth.

In another embodiment of the invention, natural, modified, or recombinant nucleic acid sequences may be ligated to a heterologous sequence to encode a fusion protein. For example, to screen peptide libraries for inhibitors of polypeptide activity, it

may be useful to encode a chimeric protein that can be recognized by a commercially available antibody. A fusion protein may also be engineered to contain a cleavage site located between the polypeptide-encoding sequence and the heterologous protein sequence, so that the polypeptide may be cleaved and purified away from the heterologous moiety.

5                Sequences encoding a desired polypeptide may be synthesized, in whole or in part, using chemical methods well known in the art (see Caruthers, M. H. *et al.* (1980) *Nucl. Acids Res. Symp. Ser.* 215-223, Horn, T. *et al.* (1980) *Nucl. Acids Res. Symp. Ser.* 225-232). Alternatively, the protein itself may be produced using chemical methods to synthesize the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide, or a portion thereof. For example,  
10 peptide synthesis can be performed using various solid-phase techniques (Roberge, J. Y. *et al.* (1995) *Science* 269:202-204) and automated synthesis may be achieved, for example, using the ABI 431A Peptide Synthesizer (Perkin Elmer, Palo Alto, CA).

                 A newly synthesized peptide may be substantially purified by preparative high performance liquid chromatography (*e.g.*, Creighton, T. (1983) *Proteins, Structures and Molecular Principles*, WH Freeman and Co., New York, N.Y.) or other comparable  
15 techniques available in the art. The composition of the synthetic peptides may be confirmed by amino acid analysis or sequencing (*e.g.*, the Edman degradation procedure). Additionally, the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide, or any part thereof, may be altered during direct synthesis and/or combined using chemical methods with sequences from  
20 other proteins, or any part thereof, to produce a variant polypeptide.

                 In order to express a desired polypeptide, the nucleotide sequences encoding the polypeptide, or functional equivalents, may be inserted into appropriate expression vector, *i.e.*, a vector which contains the necessary elements for the transcription and translation of the inserted coding sequence. Methods which are well known to those  
25 skilled in the art may be used to construct expression vectors containing sequences encoding a polypeptide of interest and appropriate transcriptional and translational control elements. These methods include in vitro recombinant DNA techniques, synthetic techniques, and in vivo genetic recombination. Such techniques are described in Sambrook, J. *et al.* (1989) *Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Press,



Plainview, N.Y., and Ausubel, F. M. *et al.* (1989) Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, John Wiley & Sons, New York. N.Y.

A variety of expression vector/host systems may be utilized to contain and express polynucleotide sequences. These include, but are not limited to, microorganisms such as bacteria transformed with recombinant bacteriophage, plasmid, or cosmid DNA expression vectors; yeast transformed with yeast expression vectors; insect cell systems infected with virus expression vectors (*e.g.*, baculovirus); plant cell systems transformed with virus expression vectors (*e.g.*, cauliflower mosaic virus, CaMV; tobacco mosaic virus, TMV) or with bacterial expression vectors (*e.g.*, Ti or pBR322 plasmids); or animal cell systems.

The "control elements" or "regulatory sequences" present in an expression vector are those non-translated regions of the vector--enhancers, promoters, 5' and 3' untranslated regions--which interact with host cellular proteins to carry out transcription and translation. Such elements may vary in their strength and specificity. Depending on the vector system and host utilized, any number of suitable transcription and translation elements, including constitutive and inducible promoters, may be used. For example, when cloning in bacterial systems, inducible promoters such as the hybrid lacZ promoter of the PBLUESCRIPT phagemid (Stratagene, La Jolla, Calif.) or PSPORT1 plasmid (Gibco BRL, Gaithersburg, MD) and the like may be used. In mammalian cell systems, promoters from mammalian genes or from mammalian viruses are generally preferred. If it is necessary to generate a cell line that contains multiple copies of the sequence encoding a polypeptide, vectors based on SV40 or EBV may be advantageously used with an appropriate selectable marker.

In bacterial systems, a number of expression vectors may be selected depending upon the use intended for the expressed polypeptide. For example, when large quantities are needed, for example for the induction of antibodies, vectors which direct high level expression of fusion proteins that are readily purified may be used. Such vectors include, but are not limited to, the multifunctional *E. coli* cloning and expression vectors such as BLUESCRIPT (Stratagene), in which the sequence encoding the polypeptide of

interest may be ligated into the vector in frame with sequences for the amino-terminal Met and the subsequent 7 residues of .beta.-galactosidase so that a hybrid protein is produced; pIN vectors (Van Heeke, G. and S. M. Schuster (1989) *J. Biol. Chem.* 264:5503-5509); and the like. pGEX Vectors (Promega, Madison, Wis.) may also be used to express foreign polypeptides as fusion proteins with glutathione S-transferase (GST). In general, such fusion proteins are soluble and can easily be purified from lysed cells by adsorption to glutathione-agarose beads followed by elution in the presence of free glutathione. Proteins made in such systems may be designed to include heparin, thrombin, or factor XA protease cleavage sites so that the cloned polypeptide of interest can be released from the GST moiety at will.

In the yeast, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, a number of vectors containing constitutive or inducible promoters such as alpha factor, alcohol oxidase, and PGH may be used. For reviews, see Ausubel *et al.* (supra) and Grant *et al.* (1987) *Methods Enzymol.* 153:516-544.

In cases where plant expression vectors are used, the expression of sequences encoding polypeptides may be driven by any of a number of promoters. For example, viral promoters such as the 35S and 19S promoters of CaMV may be used alone or in combination with the omega leader sequence from TMV (Takamatsu, N. (1987) *EMBO J.* 6:307-311. Alternatively, plant promoters such as the small subunit of RUBISCO or heat shock promoters may be used (Coruzzi, G. *et al.* (1984) *EMBO J.* 3:1671-1680; Broglie, R. *et al.* (1984) *Science* 224:838-843; and Winter, J. *et al.* (1991) *Results Probl. Cell Differ.* 17:85-105). These constructs can be introduced into plant cells by direct DNA transformation or pathogen-mediated transfection. Such techniques are described in a number of generally available reviews (see, for example, Hobbs, S. or Murry, L. E. in McGraw Hill Yearbook of Science and Technology (1992) McGraw Hill, New York, N.Y.; pp. 191-196).

An insect system may also be used to express a polypeptide of interest. For example, in one such system, *Autographa californica* nuclear polyhedrosis virus (AcNPV) is used as a vector to express foreign genes in *Spodoptera frugiperda* cells or in

Trichoplusia larvae. The sequences encoding the polypeptide may be cloned into a non-essential region of the virus, such as the polyhedrin gene, and placed under control of the polyhedrin promoter. Successful insertion of the polypeptide-encoding sequence will render the polyhedrin gene inactive and produce recombinant virus lacking coat protein.

- 5 The recombinant viruses may then be used to infect, for example, *S. frugiperda* cells or *Trichoplusia* larvae in which the polypeptide of interest may be expressed (Engelhard, E. K. *et al.* (1994) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 91 :3224-3227).

- 10 In mammalian host cells, a number of viral-based expression systems are generally available. For example, in cases where an adenovirus is used as an expression vector, sequences encoding a polypeptide of interest may be ligated into an adenovirus transcription/translation complex consisting of the late promoter and tripartite leader sequence. Insertion in a non-essential E1 or E3 region of the viral genome may be used to obtain a viable virus which is capable of expressing the polypeptide in infected host cells (Logan, J. and Shenk, T. (1984) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 81:3655-3659). In addition,
- 15 transcription enhancers, such as the Rous sarcoma virus (RSV) enhancer, may be used to increase expression in mammalian host cells.

- 20 Specific initiation signals may also be used to achieve more efficient translation of sequences encoding a polypeptide of interest. Such signals include the ATG initiation codon and adjacent sequences. In cases where sequences encoding the polypeptide, its initiation codon, and upstream sequences are inserted into the appropriate expression vector, no additional transcriptional or translational control signals may be needed. However, in cases where only coding sequence, or a portion thereof, is inserted, exogenous translational control signals including the ATG initiation codon should be provided. Furthermore, the initiation codon should be in the correct reading frame to ensure
- 25 translation of the entire insert. Exogenous translational elements and initiation codons may be of various origins, both natural and synthetic. The efficiency of expression may be enhanced by the inclusion of enhancers which are appropriate for the particular cell system which is used, such as those described in the literature (Scharf, D. *et al.* (1994) *Results Probl. Cell Differ.* 20:125-162).

In addition, a host cell strain may be chosen for its ability to modulate the expression of the inserted sequences or to process the expressed protein in the desired fashion. Such modifications of the polypeptide include, but are not limited to, acetylation, carboxylation, glycosylation, phosphorylation, lipidation, and acylation. Post-translational processing which cleaves a "prepro" form of the protein may also be used to facilitate correct insertion, folding and/or function. Different host cells such as CHO, HeLa, MDCK, HEK293, and WI38, which have specific cellular machinery and characteristic mechanisms for such post-translational activities, may be chosen to ensure the correct modification and processing of the foreign protein.

For long-term, high-yield production of recombinant proteins, stable expression is generally preferred. For example, cell lines which stably express a polynucleotide of interest may be transformed using expression vectors which may contain viral origins of replication and/or endogenous expression elements and a selectable marker gene on the same or on a separate vector. Following the introduction of the vector, cells may be allowed to grow for 1-2 days in an enriched media before they are switched to selective media. The purpose of the selectable marker is to confer resistance to selection, and its presence allows growth and recovery of cells which successfully express the introduced sequences. Resistant clones of stably transformed cells may be proliferated using tissue culture techniques appropriate to the cell type.

Any number of selection systems may be used to recover transformed cell lines. These include, but are not limited to, the herpes simplex virus thymidine kinase (Wigler, M. *et al.* (1977) *Cell* 11:223-32) and adenine phosphoribosyltransferase (Lowy, I. *et al.* (1990) *Cell* 22:817-23) genes which can be employed in tk.sup.- or apt.sup.- cells, respectively. Also, antimetabolite, antibiotic or herbicide resistance can be used as the basis for selection; for example, dhfr which confers resistance to methotrexate (Wigler, M. *et al.* (1980) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 77:3567-70); npt, which confers resistance to the aminoglycosides, neomycin and G-418 (Colbere-Garapin, F. *et al.* (1981) *J. Mol. Biol.* 150:1-14); and als or pat, which confer resistance to chlorsulfuron and phosphinotricin acetyltransferase, respectively (Murry, *supra*). Additional selectable genes have been

described, for example, *trpB*, which allows cells to utilize indole in place of tryptophan, or *hisD*, which allows cells to utilize histinol in place of histidine (Hartman, S. C. and R. C. Mulligan (1988) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 85:8047-51). Recently, the use of visible markers has gained popularity with such markers as anthocyanins, beta-glucuronidase and its substrate GUS, and luciferase and its substrate luciferin, being widely used not only to identify transformants, but also to quantify the amount of transient or stable protein expression attributable to a specific vector system (Rhodes, C. A. *et al.* (1995) *Methods Mol. Biol.* 55:121-131).

Although the presence/absence of marker gene expression suggests that the gene of interest is also present, its presence and expression may need to be confirmed. For example, if the sequence encoding a polypeptide is inserted within a marker gene sequence, recombinant cells containing sequences can be identified by the absence of marker gene function. Alternatively, a marker gene can be placed in tandem with a polypeptide-encoding sequence under the control of a single promoter. Expression of the marker gene in response to induction or selection usually indicates expression of the tandem gene as well.

Alternatively, host cells which contain and express a desired polynucleotide sequence may be identified by a variety of procedures known to those of skill in the art. These procedures include, but are not limited to, DNA-DNA or DNA-RNA hybridizations and protein bioassay or immunoassay techniques which include membrane, solution, or chip based technologies for the detection and/or quantification of nucleic acid or protein.

A variety of protocols for detecting and measuring the expression of polynucleotide-encoded products, using either polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies specific for the product are known in the art. Examples include enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), radioimmunoassay (RIA), and fluorescence activated cell sorting (FACS). A two-site, monoclonal-based immunoassay utilizing monoclonal antibodies reactive to two non-interfering epitopes on a given polypeptide may be preferred for some applications, but a competitive binding assay may also be employed. These and other assays are described, among other places, in Hampton, R. *et al.* (1990; Serological

Methods, a Laboratory Manual, APS Press, St Paul. Minn.) and Maddox, D. E. *et al.* (1983; *J. Exp. Med.* 158:1211-1216).

A wide variety of labels and conjugation techniques are known by those skilled in the art and may be used in various nucleic acid and amino acid assays. Means for producing labeled hybridization or PCR probes for detecting sequences related to polynucleotides include oligolabeling, nick translation, end-labeling or PCR amplification using a labeled nucleotide. Alternatively, the sequences, or any portions thereof may be cloned into a vector for the production of an mRNA probe. Such vectors are known in the art, are commercially available, and may be used to synthesize RNA probes in vitro by addition of an appropriate RNA polymerase such as T7, T3, or SP6 and labeled nucleotides. These procedures may be conducted using a variety of commercially available kits. Suitable reporter molecules or labels, which may be used include radionuclides, enzymes, fluorescent, chemiluminescent, or chromogenic agents as well as substrates, cofactors, inhibitors, magnetic particles, and the like.

Host cells transformed with a polynucleotide sequence of interest may be cultured under conditions suitable for the expression and recovery of the protein from cell culture. The protein produced by a recombinant cell may be secreted or contained intracellularly depending on the sequence and/or the vector used. As will be understood by those of skill in the art, expression vectors containing polynucleotides of the invention may be designed to contain signal sequences which direct secretion of the encoded polypeptide through a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell membrane. Other recombinant constructions may be used to join sequences encoding a polypeptide of interest to nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide domain which will facilitate purification of soluble proteins. Such purification facilitating domains include, but are not limited to, metal chelating peptides such as histidine-tryptophan modules that allow purification on immobilized metals, protein A domains that allow purification on immobilized immunoglobulin, and the domain utilized in the FLAGS extension/affinity purification system (Immunex Corp., Seattle, Wash.). The inclusion of cleavable linker sequences such as those specific for Factor XA or enterokinase (Invitrogen. San Diego, Calif.) between the purification domain and the

encoded polypeptide may be used to facilitate purification. One such expression vector provides for expression of a fusion protein containing a polypeptide of interest and a nucleic acid encoding 6 histidine residues preceding a thioredoxin or an enterokinase cleavage site. The histidine residues facilitate purification on IMIAC (immobilized metal ion affinity chromatography) as described in Porath, J. *et al.* (1992, *Prot. Exp. Purif.* 3:263-281) while the enterokinase cleavage site provides a means for purifying the desired polypeptide from the fusion protein. A discussion of vectors which contain fusion proteins is provided in Kroll, D. J. *et al.* (1993; *DNA Cell Biol.* 12:441-453).

In addition to recombinant production methods, polypeptides of the invention, and fragments thereof, may be produced by direct peptide synthesis using solid-phase techniques (Merrifield J. (1963) *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 85:2149-2154). Protein synthesis may be performed using manual techniques or by automation. Automated synthesis may be achieved, for example, using Applied Biosystems 431A Peptide Synthesizer (Perkin Elmer). Alternatively, various fragments may be chemically synthesized separately and combined using chemical methods to produce the full length molecule.

#### SITE-SPECIFIC MUTAGENESIS

Site-specific mutagenesis is a technique useful in the preparation of individual peptides, or biologically functional equivalent polypeptides, through specific mutagenesis of the underlying polynucleotides that encode them. The technique, well-known to those of skill in the art, further provides a ready ability to prepare and test sequence variants, for example, incorporating one or more of the foregoing considerations, by introducing one or more nucleotide sequence changes into the DNA. Site-specific mutagenesis allows the production of mutants through the use of specific oligonucleotide sequences which encode the DNA sequence of the desired mutation, as well as a sufficient number of adjacent nucleotides, to provide a primer sequence of sufficient size and sequence complexity to form a stable duplex on both sides of the deletion junction being traversed. Mutations may be employed in a selected polynucleotide sequence to improve, alter, decrease, modify, or otherwise change the properties of the polynucleotide itself,

and/or alter the properties, activity, composition, stability, or primary sequence of the encoded polypeptide.

In certain embodiments of the present invention, the inventors contemplate the mutagenesis of the disclosed polynucleotide sequences to alter one or more properties of the encoded polypeptide, such as the antigenicity of a polypeptide vaccine. The techniques of site-specific mutagenesis are well-known in the art, and are widely used to create variants of both polypeptides and polynucleotides. For example, site-specific mutagenesis is often used to alter a specific portion of a DNA molecule. In such embodiments, a primer comprising typically about 14 to about 25 nucleotides or so in length is employed, with about 5 to about 10 residues on both sides of the junction of the sequence being altered.

As will be appreciated by those of skill in the art, site-specific mutagenesis techniques have often employed a phage vector that exists in both a single stranded and double stranded form. Typical vectors useful in site-directed mutagenesis include vectors such as the M13 phage. These phage are readily commercially-available and their use is generally well-known to those skilled in the art. Double-stranded plasmids are also routinely employed in site directed mutagenesis that eliminates the step of transferring the gene of interest from a plasmid to a phage.

In general, site-directed mutagenesis in accordance herewith is performed by first obtaining a single-stranded vector or melting apart of two strands of a double-stranded vector that includes within its sequence a DNA sequence that encodes the desired peptide. An oligonucleotide primer bearing the desired mutated sequence is prepared, generally synthetically. This primer is then annealed with the single-stranded vector, and subjected to DNA polymerizing enzymes such as *E. coli* polymerase I Klenow fragment, in order to complete the synthesis of the mutation-bearing strand. Thus, a heteroduplex is formed wherein one strand encodes the original non-mutated sequence and the second strand bears the desired mutation. This heteroduplex vector is then used to transform appropriate cells, such as *E. coli* cells, and clones are selected which include recombinant vectors bearing the mutated sequence arrangement.



The preparation of sequence variants of the selected peptide-encoding DNA segments using site-directed mutagenesis provides a means of producing potentially useful species and is not meant to be limiting as there are other ways in which sequence variants of peptides and the DNA sequences encoding them may be obtained. For example, recombinant vectors encoding the desired peptide sequence may be treated with mutagenic agents, such as hydroxylamine, to obtain sequence variants. Specific details regarding these methods and protocols are found in the teachings of Maloy *et al.*, 1994; Segal, 1976; Prokop and Bajpai, 1991; Kubby, 1994; and Maniatis *et al.*, 1982, each incorporated herein by reference, for that purpose.

As used herein, the term "oligonucleotide directed mutagenesis procedure" refers to template-dependent processes and vector-mediated propagation which result in an increase in the concentration of a specific nucleic acid molecule relative to its initial concentration, or in an increase in the concentration of a detectable signal, such as amplification. As used herein, the term "oligonucleotide directed mutagenesis procedure" is intended to refer to a process that involves the template-dependent extension of a primer molecule. The term template dependent process refers to nucleic acid synthesis of an RNA or a DNA molecule wherein the sequence of the newly synthesized strand of nucleic acid is dictated by the well-known rules of complementary base pairing (see, for example, Watson, 1987). Typically, vector mediated methodologies involve the introduction of the nucleic acid fragment into a DNA or RNA vector, the clonal amplification of the vector, and the recovery of the amplified nucleic acid fragment. Examples of such methodologies are provided by U. S. Patent No. 4,237,224, specifically incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

#### POLYNUCLEOTIDE AMPLIFICATION TECHNIQUES

A number of template dependent processes are available to amplify the target sequences of interest present in a sample. One of the best known amplification methods is the polymerase chain reaction (PCR™) which is described in detail in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,683,195, 4,683,202 and 4,800,159, each of which is incorporated herein by

reference in its entirety. Briefly, in PCR<sup>TM</sup>, two primer sequences are prepared which are complementary to regions on opposite complementary strands of the target sequence. An excess of deoxynucleoside triphosphates is added to a reaction mixture along with a DNA polymerase (*e.g.*, *Taq* polymerase). If the target sequence is present in a sample, the primers will bind to the target and the polymerase will cause the primers to be extended along the target sequence by adding on nucleotides. By raising and lowering the temperature of the reaction mixture, the extended primers will dissociate from the target to form reaction products, excess primers will bind to the target and to the reaction product and the process is repeated. Preferably reverse transcription and PCR<sup>TM</sup> amplification procedure may be performed in order to quantify the amount of mRNA amplified. Polymerase chain reaction methodologies are well known in the art.

Another method for amplification is the ligase chain reaction (referred to as LCR), disclosed in Eur. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. 320,308 (specifically incorporated herein by reference in its entirety). In LCR, two complementary probe pairs are prepared, and in the presence of the target sequence, each pair will bind to opposite complementary strands of the target such that they abut. In the presence of a ligase, the two probe pairs will link to form a single unit. By temperature cycling, as in PCR<sup>TM</sup>, bound ligated units dissociate from the target and then serve as "target sequences" for ligation of excess probe pairs. U.S. Patent No. 4,883,750, incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, describes an alternative method of amplification similar to LCR for binding probe pairs to a target sequence.

Qbeta Replicase, described in PCT Intl. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. PCT/US87/00880, incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, may also be used as still another amplification method in the present invention. In this method, a replicative sequence of RNA that has a region complementary to that of a target is added to a sample in the presence of an RNA polymerase. The polymerase will copy the replicative sequence that can then be detected.

An isothermal amplification method, in which restriction endonucleases and ligases are used to achieve the amplification of target molecules that contain nucleotide

5'-[ $\alpha$ -thio]triphosphates in one strand of a restriction site (Walker *et al.*, 1992, incorporated herein by reference in its entirety), may also be useful in the amplification of nucleic acids in the present invention.

Strand Displacement Amplification (SDA) is another method of carrying out isothermal amplification of nucleic acids which involves multiple rounds of strand displacement and synthesis, *i.e.* nick translation. A similar method, called Repair Chain Reaction (RCR) is another method of amplification which may be useful in the present invention and is involves annealing several probes throughout a region targeted for amplification, followed by a repair reaction in which only two of the four bases are present. The other two bases can be added as biotinylated derivatives for easy detection. A similar approach is used in SDA.

Sequences can also be detected using a cyclic probe reaction (CPR). In CPR, a probe having a 3' and 5' sequences of non-target DNA and an internal or "middle" sequence of the target protein specific RNA is hybridized to DNA which is present in a sample. Upon hybridization, the reaction is treated with RNaseH, and the products of the probe are identified as distinctive products by generating a signal that is released after digestion. The original template is annealed to another cycling probe and the reaction is repeated. Thus, CPR involves amplifying a signal generated by hybridization of a probe to a target gene specific expressed nucleic acid.

Still other amplification methods described in Great Britain Pat. Appl. No. 2 202 328, and in PCT Intl. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. PCT/US89/01025, each of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, may be used in accordance with the present invention. In the former application, "modified" primers are used in a PCR-like, template and enzyme dependent synthesis. The primers may be modified by labeling with a capture moiety (*e.g.*, biotin) and/or a detector moiety (*e.g.*, enzyme). In the latter application, an excess of labeled probes is added to a sample. In the presence of the target sequence, the probe binds and is cleaved catalytically. After cleavage, the target sequence is released intact to be bound by excess probe. Cleavage of the labeled probe signals the presence of the target sequence.

Other nucleic acid amplification procedures include transcription-based amplification systems (TAS) (Kwoh *et al.*, 1989; PCT Intl. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. WO 88/10315, incorporated herein by reference in its entirety), including nucleic acid sequence based amplification (NASBA) and 3SR. In NASBA, the nucleic acids can be prepared for amplification by standard phenol/chloroform extraction, heat denaturation of a sample, treatment with lysis buffer and minispin columns for isolation of DNA and RNA or guanidinium chloride extraction of RNA. These amplification techniques involve annealing a primer that has sequences specific to the target sequence. Following polymerization, DNA/RNA hybrids are digested with RNase H while double stranded DNA molecules are heat-denatured again. In either case the single stranded DNA is made fully double stranded by addition of second target-specific primer, followed by polymerization. The double stranded DNA molecules are then multiply transcribed by a polymerase such as T7 or SP6. In an isothermal cyclic reaction, the RNAs are reverse transcribed into DNA, and transcribed once again with a polymerase such as T7 or SP6.

15 The resulting products, whether truncated or complete, indicate target-specific sequences.

Eur. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. 329,822, incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, disclose a nucleic acid amplification process involving cyclically synthesizing single-stranded RNA ("ssRNA"), ssDNA, and double-stranded DNA (dsDNA), which may be used in accordance with the present invention. The ssRNA is a first template for a first primer oligonucleotide, which is elongated by reverse transcriptase (RNA-dependent DNA polymerase). The RNA is then removed from resulting DNA:RNA duplex by the action of ribonuclease H (RNase H, an RNase specific for RNA in a duplex with either DNA or RNA). The resultant ssDNA is a second template for a second primer, which also includes the sequences of an RNA polymerase promoter (exemplified by T7 RNA polymerase) 5' to its homology to its template. This primer is then extended by DNA polymerase (exemplified by the large "Klenow" fragment of *E. coli* DNA polymerase I), resulting as a double-stranded DNA ("dsDNA") molecule, having a sequence identical to that of the original RNA between the primers and having additionally, at one end, a promoter sequence. This promoter sequence can be used by the appropriate RNA polymerase to

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make many RNA copies of the DNA. These copies can then re-enter the cycle leading to very swift amplification. With proper choice of enzymes, this amplification can be done isothermally without addition of enzymes at each cycle. Because of the cyclical nature of this process, the starting sequence can be chosen to be in the form of either DNA or RNA.

5 PCT Intl. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. WO 89/06700, incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, disclose a nucleic acid sequence amplification scheme based on the hybridization of a promoter/primer sequence to a target single-stranded DNA ("ssDNA") followed by transcription of many RNA copies of the sequence. This scheme is not cyclic; *i.e.* new templates are not produced from the resultant RNA transcripts. Other  
10 amplification methods include "RACE" (Frohman, 1990), and "one-sided PCR" (Ohara, 1989) which are well-known to those of skill in the art.

Methods based on ligation of two (or more) oligonucleotides in the presence of nucleic acid having the sequence of the resulting "di-oligonucleotide", thereby amplifying the di-oligonucleotide (Wu and Dean, 1996, incorporated herein by reference in  
15 its entirety), may also be used in the amplification of DNA sequences of the present invention.

#### **BIOLOGICAL FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENTS**

Modification and changes may be made in the structure of the polynucleotides and polypeptides of the present invention and still obtain a functional  
20 molecule that encodes a polypeptide with desirable characteristics. As mentioned above, it is often desirable to introduce one or more mutations into a specific polynucleotide sequence. In certain circumstances, the resulting encoded polypeptide sequence is altered by this mutation, or in other cases, the sequence of the polypeptide is unchanged by one or more mutations in the encoding polynucleotide.

25 When it is desirable to alter the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide to create an equivalent, or even an improved, second-generation molecule, the amino acid changes may be achieved by changing one or more of the codons of the encoding DNA sequence, according to Table 1.

For example, certain amino acids may be substituted for other amino acids in a protein structure without appreciable loss of interactive binding capacity with structures such as, for example, antigen-binding regions of antibodies or binding sites on substrate molecules. Since it is the interactive capacity and nature of a protein that defines that protein's biological functional activity, certain amino acid sequence substitutions can be made in a protein sequence, and, of course, its underlying DNA coding sequence, and nevertheless obtain a protein with like properties. It is thus contemplated by the inventors that various changes may be made in the peptide sequences of the disclosed compositions, or corresponding DNA sequences which encode said peptides without appreciable loss of their biological utility or activity.

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**TABLE 1**

Amino Acids			Codons					
Alanine	Ala	A	GCA	GCC	GCG	GCU		
Cysteine	Cys	C	UGC	UGU				
Aspartic acid	Asp	D	GAC	GAU				
Glutamic acid	Glu	E	GAA	GAG				
Phenylalanine	Phe	F	UUC	UUU				
Glycine	Gly	G	GGA	GGC	GGG	GGU		
Histidine	His	H	CAC	CAU				
Isoleucine	Ile	I	AUA	AUC	AUU			
Lysine	Lys	K	AAA	AAG				
Leucine	Leu	L	UUA	UUG	CUA	CUC	CUG	CUU
Methionine	Met	M	AUG					
Asparagine	Asn	N	AAC	AAU				
Proline	Pro	P	CCA	CCC	CCG	CCU		
Glutamine	Gln	Q	CAA	CAG				
Arginine	Arg	R	AGA	AGG	CGA	CGC	CGG	CGU
Serine	Ser	S	AGC	AGU	UCA	UCC	UCG	UCU
Threonine	Thr	T	ACA	ACC	ACG	ACU		
Valine	Val	V	GUA	GUC	GUG	GUU		
Tryptophan	Trp	W	UGG					
Tyrosine	Tyr	Y	UAC	UAU				

In making such changes, the hydropathic index of amino acids may be considered. The importance of the hydropathic amino acid index in conferring interactive biologic function on a protein is generally understood in the art (Kyte and Doolittle, 1982, incorporated herein by reference). It is accepted that the relative hydropathic character of the amino acid contributes to the secondary structure of the resultant protein, which in turn defines the interaction of the protein with other molecules, for example, enzymes, substrates, receptors, DNA, antibodies, antigens, and the like. Each amino acid has been

assigned a hydropathic index on the basis of its hydrophobicity and charge characteristics (Kyte and Doolittle, 1982). These values are: isoleucine (+4.5); valine (+4.2); leucine (+3.8); phenylalanine (+2.8); cysteine/cystine (+2.5); methionine (+1.9); alanine (+1.8); glycine (−0.4); threonine (−0.7); serine (−0.8); tryptophan (−0.9); tyrosine (−1.3); proline (−1.6); histidine (−3.2); glutamate (−3.5); glutamine (−3.5); aspartate (−3.5); asparagine (−3.5); lysine (−3.9); and arginine (−4.5).

It is known in the art that certain amino acids may be substituted by other amino acids having a similar hydropathic index or score and still result in a protein with similar biological activity, *i.e.* still obtain a biological functionally equivalent protein. In making such changes, the substitution of amino acids whose hydropathic indices are within  $\pm 2$  is preferred, those within  $\pm 1$  are particularly preferred, and those within  $\pm 0.5$  are even more particularly preferred. It is also understood in the art that the substitution of like amino acids can be made effectively on the basis of hydrophilicity. U. S. Patent 4,554,101 (specifically incorporated herein by reference in its entirety), states that the greatest local average hydrophilicity of a protein, as governed by the hydrophilicity of its adjacent amino acids, correlates with a biological property of the protein.

As detailed in U. S. Patent 4,554,101, the following hydrophilicity values have been assigned to amino acid residues: arginine (+3.0); lysine (+3.0); aspartate (+3.0  $\pm$  1); glutamate (+3.0  $\pm$  1); serine (+0.3); asparagine (+0.2); glutamine (+0.2); glycine (0); threonine (−0.4); proline (−0.5  $\pm$  1); alanine (−0.5); histidine (−0.5); cysteine (−1.0); methionine (−1.3); valine (−1.5); leucine (−1.8); isoleucine (−1.8); tyrosine (−2.3); phenylalanine (−2.5); tryptophan (−3.4). It is understood that an amino acid can be substituted for another having a similar hydrophilicity value and still obtain a biologically equivalent, and in particular, an immunologically equivalent protein. In such changes, the substitution of amino acids whose hydrophilicity values are within  $\pm 2$  is preferred, those within  $\pm 1$  are particularly preferred, and those within  $\pm 0.5$  are even more particularly preferred.

As outlined above, amino acid substitutions are generally therefore based on the relative similarity of the amino acid side-chain substituents, for example, their



hydrophobicity, hydrophilicity, charge, size, and the like. Exemplary substitutions that take various of the foregoing characteristics into consideration are well known to those of skill in the art and include: arginine and lysine; glutamate and aspartate; serine and threonine; glutamine and asparagine; and valine, leucine and isoleucine.

5 In addition, any polynucleotide may be further modified to increase stability *in vivo*. Possible modifications include, but are not limited to, the addition of flanking sequences at the 5' and/or 3' ends; the use of phosphorothioate or 2' O-methyl rather than phosphodiesterase linkages in the backbone; and/or the inclusion of nontraditional bases such as inosine, queosine and wybutosine, as well as acetyl- methyl-, thio- and other  
10 modified forms of adenine, cytidine, guanine, thymine and uridine.

#### IN VIVO POLYNUCLEOTIDE DELIVERY TECHNIQUES

In additional embodiments, genetic constructs comprising one or more of the polynucleotides of the invention are introduced into cells *in vivo*. This may be achieved using any of a variety of well known approaches, several of which are outlined below for  
15 the purpose of illustration.

##### 1. ADENOVIRUS

One of the preferred methods for *in vivo* delivery of one or more nucleic acid sequences involves the use of an adenovirus expression vector. "Adenovirus expression vector" is meant to include those constructs containing adenovirus sequences  
20 sufficient to (a) support packaging of the construct and (b) to express a polynucleotide that has been cloned therein in a sense or antisense orientation. Of course, in the context of an antisense construct, expression does not require that the gene product be synthesized.

The expression vector comprises a genetically engineered form of an adenovirus. Knowledge of the genetic organization of adenovirus, a 36 kb, linear, double-  
25 stranded DNA virus, allows substitution of large pieces of adenoviral DNA with foreign sequences up to 7 kb (Grunhaus and Horwitz, 1992). In contrast to retrovirus, the adenoviral infection of host cells does not result in chromosomal integration because

adenoviral DNA can replicate in an episomal manner without potential genotoxicity. Also, adenoviruses are structurally stable, and no genome rearrangement has been detected after extensive amplification. Adenovirus can infect virtually all epithelial cells regardless of their cell cycle stage. So far, adenoviral infection appears to be linked only to mild disease  
5 such as acute respiratory disease in humans.

Adenovirus is particularly suitable for use as a gene transfer vector because of its mid-sized genome, ease of manipulation, high titer, wide target-cell range and high infectivity. Both ends of the viral genome contain 100-200 base pair inverted repeats (ITRs), which are *cis* elements necessary for viral DNA replication and packaging. The  
10 early (E) and late (L) regions of the genome contain different transcription units that are divided by the onset of viral DNA replication. The E1 region (E1A and E1B) encodes proteins responsible for the regulation of transcription of the viral genome and a few cellular genes. The expression of the E2 region (E2A and E2B) results in the synthesis of the proteins for viral DNA replication. These proteins are involved in DNA replication,  
15 late gene expression and host cell shut-off (Renan, 1990). The products of the late genes, including the majority of the viral capsid proteins, are expressed only after significant processing of a single primary transcript issued by the major late promoter (MLP). The MLP, (located at 16.8 m.u.) is particularly efficient during the late phase of infection, and all the mRNA's issued from this promoter possess a 5'-tripartite leader (TPL) sequence  
20 which makes them preferred mRNA's for translation.

In a current system, recombinant adenovirus is generated from homologous recombination between shuttle vector and provirus vector. Due to the possible recombination between two proviral vectors, wild-type adenovirus may be generated from this process. Therefore, it is critical to isolate a single clone of virus from an individual  
25 plaque and examine its genomic structure.

Generation and propagation of the current adenovirus vectors, which are replication deficient, depend on a unique helper cell line, designated 293, which was transformed from human embryonic kidney cells by Ad5 DNA fragments and constitutively expresses E1 proteins (Graham *et al.*, 1977). Since the E3 region is

dispensable from the adenovirus genome (Jones and Shenk, 1978), the current adenovirus vectors, with the help of 293 cells, carry foreign DNA in either the E1, the D3 or both regions (Graham and Prevec, 1991). In nature, adenovirus can package approximately 105% of the wild-type genome (Ghosh-Choudhury *et al.*, 1987), providing capacity for about 2 extra kB of DNA. Combined with the approximately 5.5 kB of DNA that is replaceable in the E1 and E3 regions, the maximum capacity of the current adenovirus vector is under 7.5 kB, or about 15% of the total length of the vector. More than 80% of the adenovirus viral genome remains in the vector backbone and is the source of vector-borne cytotoxicity. Also, the replication deficiency of the E1-deleted virus is incomplete.

For example, leakage of viral gene expression has been observed with the currently available vectors at high multiplicities of infection (MOI) (Mulligan, 1993).

Helper cell lines may be derived from human cells such as human embryonic kidney cells, muscle cells, hematopoietic cells or other human embryonic mesenchymal or epithelial cells. Alternatively, the helper cells may be derived from the cells of other mammalian species that are permissive for human adenovirus. Such cells include, *e.g.*, Vero cells or other monkey embryonic mesenchymal or epithelial cells. As stated above, the currently preferred helper cell line is 293.

Recently, Racher *et al.* (1995) disclosed improved methods for culturing 293 cells and propagating adenovirus. In one format, natural cell aggregates are grown by inoculating individual cells into 1 liter siliconized spinner flasks (Techne, Cambridge, UK) containing 100-200 ml of medium. Following stirring at 40 rpm, the cell viability is estimated with trypan blue. In another format, Fibra-Cel microcarriers (Bibby Sterlin, Stone, UK) (5 g/l) is employed as follows. A cell inoculum, resuspended in 5 ml of medium, is added to the carrier (50 ml) in a 250 ml Erlenmeyer flask and left stationary, with occasional agitation, for 1 to 4 h. The medium is then replaced with 50 ml of fresh medium and shaking initiated. For virus production, cells are allowed to grow to about 80% confluence, after which time the medium is replaced (to 25% of the final volume) and adenovirus added at an MOI of 0.05. Cultures are left stationary overnight, following which the volume is increased to 100% and shaking commenced for another 72 h.

Other than the requirement that the adenovirus vector be replication defective, or at least conditionally defective, the nature of the adenovirus vector is not believed to be crucial to the successful practice of the invention. The adenovirus may be of any of the 42 different known serotypes or subgroups A-F. Adenovirus type 5 of subgroup C is the preferred starting material in order to obtain a conditional replication-defective adenovirus vector for use in the present invention, since Adenovirus type 5 is a human adenovirus about which a great deal of biochemical and genetic information is known, and it has historically been used for most constructions employing adenovirus as a vector.

As stated above, the typical vector according to the present invention is replication defective and will not have an adenovirus E1 region. Thus, it will be most convenient to introduce the polynucleotide encoding the gene of interest at the position from which the E1-coding sequences have been removed. However, the position of insertion of the construct within the adenovirus sequences is not critical to the invention. The polynucleotide encoding the gene of interest may also be inserted in lieu of the deleted E3 region in E3 replacement vectors as described by Karlsson *et al.* (1986) or in the E4 region where a helper cell line or helper virus complements the E4 defect.

Adenovirus is easy to grow and manipulate and exhibits broad host range *in vitro* and *in vivo*. This group of viruses can be obtained in high titers, *e.g.*,  $10^9$ - $10^{11}$  plaque-forming units per ml, and they are highly infective. The life cycle of adenovirus does not require integration into the host cell genome. The foreign genes delivered by adenovirus vectors are episomal and, therefore, have low genotoxicity to host cells. No side effects have been reported in studies of vaccination with wild-type adenovirus (Couch *et al.*, 1963; Top *et al.*, 1971), demonstrating their safety and therapeutic potential as *in vivo* gene transfer vectors.

Adenovirus vectors have been used in eukaryotic gene expression (Levrero *et al.*, 1991; Gomez-Foix *et al.*, 1992) and vaccine development (Grunhaus and Horwitz, 1992; Graham and Prevec, 1992). Recently, animal studies suggested that recombinant adenovirus could be used for gene therapy (Stratford-Perricaudet and Perricaudet, 1991; Stratford-Perricaudet *et al.*, 1990; Rich *et al.*, 1993). Studies in administering recombinant

adenovirus to different tissues include trachea instillation (Rosenfeld *et al.*, 1991; Rosenfeld *et al.*, 1992), muscle injection (Ragot *et al.*, 1993), peripheral intravenous injections (Herz and Gerard, 1993) and stereotactic inoculation into the brain (Le Gal La Salle *et al.*, 1993).

## 5 2. RETROVIRUSES

The retroviruses are a group of single-stranded RNA viruses characterized by an ability to convert their RNA to double-stranded DNA in infected cells by a process of reverse-transcription (Coffin, 1990). The resulting DNA then stably integrates into cellular chromosomes as a provirus and directs synthesis of viral proteins. The integration results in the retention of the viral gene sequences in the recipient cell and its descendants. The retroviral genome contains three genes, gag, pol, and env that code for capsid proteins, polymerase enzyme, and envelope components, respectively. A sequence found upstream from the gag gene contains a signal for packaging of the genome into virions. Two long terminal repeat (LTR) sequences are present at the 5' and 3' ends of the viral genome. These contain strong promoter and enhancer sequences and are also required for integration in the host cell genome (Coffin, 1990).

In order to construct a retroviral vector, a nucleic acid encoding one or more oligonucleotide or polynucleotide sequences of interest is inserted into the viral genome in the place of certain viral sequences to produce a virus that is replication-defective. In order to produce virions, a packaging cell line containing the gag, pol, and env genes but without the LTR and packaging components is constructed (Mann *et al.*, 1983). When a recombinant plasmid containing a cDNA, together with the retroviral LTR and packaging sequences is introduced into this cell line (by calcium phosphate precipitation for example), the packaging sequence allows the RNA transcript of the recombinant plasmid to be packaged into viral particles, which are then secreted into the culture media (Nicolas and Rubenstein, 1988; Temin, 1986; Mann *et al.*, 1983). The media containing the recombinant retroviruses is then collected, optionally concentrated, and used for gene

transfer. Retroviral vectors are able to infect a broad variety of cell types. However, integration and stable expression require the division of host cells (Paskind *et al.*, 1975).

A novel approach designed to allow specific targeting of retrovirus vectors was recently developed based on the chemical modification of a retrovirus by the chemical addition of lactose residues to the viral envelope. This modification could permit the specific infection of hepatocytes *via* sialoglycoprotein receptors.

A different approach to targeting of recombinant retroviruses was designed in which biotinylated antibodies against a retroviral envelope protein and against a specific cell receptor were used. The antibodies were coupled *via* the biotin components by using streptavidin (Roux *et al.*, 1989). Using antibodies against major histocompatibility complex class I and class II antigens, they demonstrated the infection of a variety of human cells that bore those surface antigens with an ecotropic virus *in vitro* (Roux *et al.*, 1989).

### 3. ADENO-ASSOCIATED VIRUSES

AAV (Ridgeway, 1988; Hermonat and Muzyczka, 1984) is a parovirus, discovered as a contamination of adenoviral stocks. It is a ubiquitous virus (antibodies are present in 85% of the US human population) that has not been linked to any disease. It is also classified as a dependovirus, because its replications is dependent on the presence of a helper virus, such as adenovirus. Five serotypes have been isolated, of which AAV-2 is the best characterized. AAV has a single-stranded linear DNA that is encapsidated into capsid proteins VP1, VP2 and VP3 to form an icosahedral virion of 20 to 24 nm in diameter (Muzyczka and McLaughlin, 1988).

The AAV DNA is approximately 4.7 kilobases long. It contains two open reading frames and is flanked by two ITRs (FIG. 2). There are two major genes in the AAV genome: *rep* and *cap*. The *rep* gene codes for proteins responsible for viral replications, whereas *cap* codes for capsid protein VP1-3. Each ITR forms a T-shaped hairpin structure. These terminal repeats are the only essential *cis* components of the AAV for chromosomal integration. Therefore, the AAV can be used as a vector with all viral coding sequences removed and replaced by the cassette of genes for delivery. Three viral

promoters have been identified and named p5, p19, and p40, according to their map position. Transcription from p5 and p19 results in production of rep proteins, and transcription from p40 produces the capsid proteins (Hermonat and Muzyczka, 1984).

There are several factors that prompted researchers to study the possibility of using rAAV as an expression vector. One is that the requirements for delivering a gene to integrate into the host chromosome are surprisingly few. It is necessary to have the 145-bp ITRs, which are only 6% of the AAV genome. This leaves room in the vector to assemble a 4.5-kb DNA insertion. While this carrying capacity may prevent the AAV from delivering large genes, it is amply suited for delivering the antisense constructs of the present invention.

AAV is also a good choice of delivery vehicles due to its safety. There is a relatively complicated rescue mechanism: not only wild type adenovirus but also AAV genes are required to mobilize rAAV. Likewise, AAV is not pathogenic and not associated with any disease. The removal of viral coding sequences minimizes immune reactions to viral gene expression, and therefore, rAAV does not evoke an inflammatory response.

#### 4. OTHER VIRAL VECTORS AS EXPRESSION CONSTRUCTS

Other viral vectors may be employed as expression constructs in the present invention for the delivery of oligonucleotide or polynucleotide sequences to a host cell. Vectors derived from viruses such as vaccinia virus (Ridgeway, 1988; Coupar *et al.*, 1988), lentiviruses, polio viruses and herpes viruses may be employed. They offer several attractive features for various mammalian cells (Friedmann, 1989; Ridgeway, 1988; Coupar *et al.*, 1988; Horwich *et al.*, 1990).

With the recent recognition of defective hepatitis B viruses, new insight was gained into the structure-function relationship of different viral sequences. *In vitro* studies showed that the virus could retain the ability for helper-dependent packaging and reverse transcription despite the deletion of up to 80% of its genome (Horwich *et al.*, 1990). This suggested that large portions of the genome could be replaced with foreign genetic material. The hepatotropism and persistence (integration) were particularly attractive

properties for liver-directed gene transfer. Chang *et al.* (1991) introduced the chloramphenicol acetyltransferase (CAT) gene into duck hepatitis B virus genome in the place of the polymerase, surface, and pre-surface coding sequences. It was cotransfected with wild-type virus into an avian hepatoma cell line. Culture media containing high titers of the recombinant virus were used to infect primary duckling hepatocytes. Stable CAT gene expression was detected for at least 24 days after transfection (Chang *et al.*, 1991).

## 5. NON-VIRAL VECTORS

In order to effect expression of the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide sequences of the present invention, the expression construct must be delivered into a cell. This delivery may be accomplished *in vitro*, as in laboratory procedures for transforming cells lines, or *in vivo* or *ex vivo*, as in the treatment of certain disease states. As described above, one preferred mechanism for delivery is *via* viral infection where the expression construct is encapsulated in an infectious viral particle.

Once the expression construct has been delivered into the cell the nucleic acid encoding the desired oligonucleotide or polynucleotide sequences may be positioned and expressed at different sites. In certain embodiments, the nucleic acid encoding the construct may be stably integrated into the genome of the cell. This integration may be in the specific location and orientation *via* homologous recombination (gene replacement) or it may be integrated in a random, non-specific location (gene augmentation). In yet further embodiments, the nucleic acid may be stably maintained in the cell as a separate, episomal segment of DNA. Such nucleic acid segments or "episomes" encode sequences sufficient to permit maintenance and replication independent of or in synchronization with the host cell cycle. How the expression construct is delivered to a cell and where in the cell the nucleic acid remains is dependent on the type of expression construct employed.

In certain embodiments of the invention, the expression construct comprising one or more oligonucleotide or polynucleotide sequences may simply consist of naked recombinant DNA or plasmids. Transfer of the construct may be performed by any of the methods mentioned above which physically or chemically permeabilize the cell



membrane. This is particularly applicable for transfer *in vitro* but it may be applied to *in vivo* use as well. Dubensky *et al.* (1984) successfully injected polyomavirus DNA in the form of calcium phosphate precipitates into liver and spleen of adult and newborn mice demonstrating active viral replication and acute infection. Benvenisty and Reshef (1986) also demonstrated that direct intraperitoneal injection of calcium phosphate-precipitated plasmids results in expression of the transfected genes. It is envisioned that DNA encoding a gene of interest may also be transferred in a similar manner *in vivo* and express the gene product.

Another embodiment of the invention for transferring a naked DNA expression construct into cells may involve particle bombardment. This method depends on the ability to accelerate DNA-coated microprojectiles to a high velocity allowing them to pierce cell membranes and enter cells without killing them (Klein *et al.*, 1987). Several devices for accelerating small particles have been developed. One such device relies on a high voltage discharge to generate an electrical current, which in turn provides the motive force (Yang *et al.*, 1990). The microprojectiles used have consisted of biologically inert substances such as tungsten or gold beads.

Selected organs including the liver, skin, and muscle tissue of rats and mice have been bombarded *in vivo* (Yang *et al.*, 1990; Zelenin *et al.*, 1991). This may require surgical exposure of the tissue or cells, to eliminate any intervening tissue between the gun and the target organ, *i.e.* *ex vivo* treatment. Again, DNA encoding a particular gene may be delivered *via* this method and still be incorporated by the present invention.

#### ANTISENSE OLIGONUCLEOTIDES

The end result of the flow of genetic information is the synthesis of protein. DNA is transcribed by polymerases into messenger RNA and translated on the ribosome to yield a folded, functional protein. Thus there are several steps along the route where protein synthesis can be inhibited. The native DNA segment coding for a polypeptide described herein, as all such mammalian DNA strands, has two strands: a sense strand and an antisense strand held together by hydrogen bonding. The messenger RNA coding for

polypeptide has the same nucleotide sequence as the sense DNA strand except that the DNA thymidine is replaced by uridine. Thus, synthetic antisense nucleotide sequences will bind to a mRNA and inhibit expression of the protein encoded by that mRNA.

The targeting of antisense oligonucleotides to mRNA is thus one mechanism to shut down protein synthesis, and, consequently, represents a powerful and targeted therapeutic approach. For example, the synthesis of polygalacturonase and the muscarine type 2 acetylcholine receptor are inhibited by antisense oligonucleotides directed to their respective mRNA sequences (U. S. Patent 5,739,119 and U. S. Patent 5,759,829, each specifically incorporated herein by reference in its entirety). Further, examples of antisense inhibition have been demonstrated with the nuclear protein cyclin, the multiple drug resistance gene (MDG1), ICAM-1, E-selectin, STK-1, striatal GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor and human EGF (Jaskulski *et al.*, 1988; Vasanthakumar and Ahmed, 1989; Peris *et al.*, 1998; U. S. Patent 5,801,154; U. S. Patent 5,789,573; U. S. Patent 5,718,709 and U. S. Patent 5,610,288, each specifically incorporated herein by reference in its entirety). Antisense constructs have also been described that inhibit and can be used to treat a variety of abnormal cellular proliferations, *e.g.* cancer (U. S. Patent 5,747,470; U. S. Patent 5,591,317 and U. S. Patent 5,783,683, each specifically incorporated herein by reference in its entirety).

Therefore, in exemplary embodiments, the invention provides oligonucleotide sequences that comprise all, or a portion of, any sequence that is capable of specifically binding to polynucleotide sequence described herein, or a complement thereof. In one embodiment, the antisense oligonucleotides comprise DNA or derivatives thereof. In another embodiment, the oligonucleotides comprise RNA or derivatives thereof. In a third embodiment, the oligonucleotides are modified DNAs comprising a phosphorothioated modified backbone. In a fourth embodiment, the oligonucleotide sequences comprise peptide nucleic acids or derivatives thereof. In each case, preferred compositions comprise a sequence region that is complementary, and more preferably substantially-complementary, and even more preferably, completely complementary to one or more portions of polynucleotides disclosed herein.

Selection of antisense compositions specific for a given gene sequence is based upon analysis of the chosen target sequence (*i.e.* in these illustrative examples the rat and human sequences) and determination of secondary structure,  $T_m$ , binding energy, relative stability, and antisense compositions were selected based upon their relative  
 5 inability to form dimers, hairpins, or other secondary structures that would reduce or prohibit specific binding to the target mRNA in a host cell.

Highly preferred target regions of the mRNA, are those which are at or near the AUG translation initiation codon, and those sequences which were substantially complementary to 5' regions of the mRNA. These secondary structure analyses and target  
 10 site selection considerations were performed using v.4 of the OLIGO primer analysis software (Rychlik, 1997) and the BLASTN 2.0.5 algorithm software (Altschul *et al.*, 1997).

The use of an antisense delivery method employing a short peptide vector, termed MPG (27 residues), is also contemplated. The MPG peptide contains a hydrophobic domain derived from the fusion sequence of HIV gp41 and a hydrophilic  
 15 domain from the nuclear localization sequence of SV40 T-antigen (Morris *et al.*, 1997). It has been demonstrated that several molecules of the MPG peptide coat the antisense oligonucleotides and can be delivered into cultured mammalian cells in less than 1 hour with relatively high efficiency (90%). Further, the interaction with MPG strongly increases both the stability of the oligonucleotide to nuclease and the ability to cross the plasma  
 20 membrane (Morris *et al.*, 1997).

## RIBOZYMES

Although proteins traditionally have been used for catalysis of nucleic acids, another class of macromolecules has emerged as useful in this endeavor. Ribozymes are RNA-protein complexes that cleave nucleic acids in a site-specific fashion. Ribozymes  
 25 have specific catalytic domains that possess endonuclease activity (Kim and Cech, 1987; Gerlach *et al.*, 1987; Forster and Symons, 1987). For example, a large number of ribozymes accelerate phosphoester transfer reactions with a high degree of specificity, often cleaving only one of several phosphoesters in an oligonucleotide substrate (Cech *et*

*al.*, 1981; Michel and Westhof, 1990; Reinhold-Hurek and Shub, 1992). This specificity has been attributed to the requirement that the substrate bind via specific base-pairing interactions to the internal guide sequence ("IGS") of the ribozyme prior to chemical reaction.

5                   Ribozyme catalysis has primarily been observed as part of sequence-specific cleavage/ligation reactions involving nucleic acids (Joyce, 1989; Cech *et al.*, 1981). For example, U. S. Patent No. 5,354,855 (specifically incorporated herein by reference) reports that certain ribozymes can act as endonucleases with a sequence specificity greater than that of known ribonucleases and approaching that of the DNA restriction enzymes. Thus,  
10                   sequence-specific ribozyme-mediated inhibition of gene expression may be particularly suited to therapeutic applications (Scanlon *et al.*, 1991; Sarver *et al.*, 1990). Recently, it was reported that ribozymes elicited genetic changes in some cells lines to which they were applied; the altered genes included the oncogenes *H-ras*, *c-fos* and genes of HIV. Most of this work involved the modification of a target mRNA, based on a specific mutant codon  
15                   that is cleaved by a specific ribozyme.

                  Six basic varieties of naturally-occurring enzymatic RNAs are known presently. Each can catalyze the hydrolysis of RNA phosphodiester bonds *in trans* (and thus can cleave other RNA molecules) under physiological conditions. In general, enzymatic nucleic acids act by first binding to a target RNA. Such binding occurs through  
20                   the target binding portion of a enzymatic nucleic acid which is held in close proximity to an enzymatic portion of the molecule that acts to cleave the target RNA. Thus, the enzymatic nucleic acid first recognizes and then binds a target RNA through complementary base-pairing, and once bound to the correct site, acts enzymatically to cut the target RNA. Strategic cleavage of such a target RNA will destroy its ability to direct synthesis of an  
25                   encoded protein. After an enzymatic nucleic acid has bound and cleaved its RNA target, it is released from that RNA to search for another target and can repeatedly bind and cleave new targets.

                  The enzymatic nature of a ribozyme is advantageous over many technologies, such as antisense technology (where a nucleic acid molecule simply binds to

a nucleic acid target to block its translation) since the concentration of ribozyme necessary to affect a therapeutic treatment is lower than that of an antisense oligonucleotide. This advantage reflects the ability of the ribozyme to act enzymatically. Thus, a single ribozyme molecule is able to cleave many molecules of target RNA. In addition, the  
 5 ribozyme is a highly specific inhibitor, with the specificity of inhibition depending not only on the base pairing mechanism of binding to the target RNA, but also on the mechanism of target RNA cleavage. Single mismatches, or base-substitutions, near the site of cleavage can completely eliminate catalytic activity of a ribozyme. Similar mismatches in antisense molecules do not prevent their action (Woolf *et al.*, 1992). Thus, the specificity of action  
 10 of a ribozyme is greater than that of an antisense oligonucleotide binding the same RNA site.

The enzymatic nucleic acid molecule may be formed in a hammerhead, hairpin, a hepatitis  $\delta$  virus, group I intron or RNaseP RNA (in association with an RNA guide sequence) or Neurospora VS RNA motif. Examples of hammerhead motifs are  
 15 described by Rossi *et al.* (1992). Examples of hairpin motifs are described by Hampel *et al.* (Eur. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. EP 0360257), Hampel and Tritz (1989), Hampel *et al.* (1990) and U. S. Patent 5,631,359 (specifically incorporated herein by reference). An example of the hepatitis  $\delta$  virus motif is described by Perrotta and Been (1992); an example of the RNaseP motif is described by Guerrier-Takada *et al.* (1983); Neurospora VS RNA  
 20 ribozyme motif is described by Collins (Saville and Collins, 1990; Saville and Collins, 1991; Collins and Olive, 1993); and an example of the Group I intron is described in (U. S. Patent 4,987,071, specifically incorporated herein by reference). All that is important in an enzymatic nucleic acid molecule of this invention is that it has a specific substrate binding site which is complementary to one or more of the target gene RNA regions, and that it  
 25 have nucleotide sequences within or surrounding that substrate binding site which impart an RNA cleaving activity to the molecule. Thus the ribozyme constructs need not be limited to specific motifs mentioned herein.

In certain embodiments, it may be important to produce enzymatic cleaving agents which exhibit a high degree of specificity for the RNA of a desired target, such as

one of the sequences disclosed herein. The enzymatic nucleic acid molecule is preferably targeted to a highly conserved sequence region of a target mRNA. Such enzymatic nucleic acid molecules can be delivered exogenously to specific cells as required. Alternatively, the ribozymes can be expressed from DNA or RNA vectors that are delivered to specific  
 5 cells.

Small enzymatic nucleic acid motifs (*e.g.*, of the hammerhead or the hairpin structure) may also be used for exogenous delivery. The simple structure of these molecules increases the ability of the enzymatic nucleic acid to invade targeted regions of the mRNA structure. Alternatively, catalytic RNA molecules can be expressed within cells  
 10 from eukaryotic promoters (*e.g.*, Scanlon *et al.*, 1991; Kashani-Sabet *et al.*, 1992; Dropulich *et al.*, 1992; Weerasinghe *et al.*, 1991; Ojwang *et al.*, 1992; Chen *et al.*, 1992; Sarver *et al.*, 1990). Those skilled in the art realize that any ribozyme can be expressed in eukaryotic cells from the appropriate DNA vector. The activity of such ribozymes can be augmented by their release from the primary transcript by a second ribozyme (Int. Pat. Appl. Publ. No.  
 15 WO 93/23569, and Int. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. WO 94/02595, both hereby incorporated by reference; Ohkawa *et al.*, 1992; Taira *et al.*, 1991; and Ventura *et al.*, 1993).

Ribozymes may be added directly, or can be complexed with cationic lipids, lipid complexes, packaged within liposomes, or otherwise delivered to target cells. The RNA or RNA complexes can be locally administered to relevant tissues *ex vivo*, or *in vivo*  
 20 through injection, aerosol inhalation, infusion pump or stent, with or without their incorporation in biopolymers.

Ribozymes may be designed as described in Int. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. WO 93/23569 and Int. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. WO 94/02595, each specifically incorporated herein by reference) and synthesized to be tested *in vitro* and *in vivo*, as described. Such  
 25 ribozymes can also be optimized for delivery. While specific examples are provided, those in the art will recognize that equivalent RNA targets in other species can be utilized when necessary.

Hammerhead or hairpin ribozymes may be individually analyzed by computer folding (Jaeger *et al.*, 1989) to assess whether the ribozyme sequences fold into

the appropriate secondary structure. Those ribozymes with unfavorable intramolecular interactions between the binding arms and the catalytic core are eliminated from consideration. Varying binding arm lengths can be chosen to optimize activity. Generally, at least 5 or so bases on each arm are able to bind to, or otherwise interact with, the target

5 RNA.

Ribozymes of the hammerhead or hairpin motif may be designed to anneal to various sites in the mRNA message, and can be chemically synthesized. The method of synthesis used follows the procedure for normal RNA synthesis as described in Usman *et al.* (1987) and in Scaringe *et al.* (1990) and makes use of common nucleic acid

10 protecting and coupling groups, such as dimethoxytrityl at the 5'-end, and phosphoramidites at the 3'-end. Average stepwise coupling yields are typically >98%. Hairpin ribozymes may be synthesized in two parts and annealed to reconstruct an active ribozyme (Chowrira and Burke, 1992). Ribozymes may be modified extensively to enhance stability by modification with nuclease resistant groups, for example, 2'-amino, 2'-

15 C-allyl, 2'-fluoro, 2'-O-methyl, 2'-H (for a review see *e.g.*, Usman and Cedergren, 1992). Ribozymes may be purified by gel electrophoresis using general methods or by high pressure liquid chromatography and resuspended in water.

Ribozyme activity can be optimized by altering the length of the ribozyme binding arms, or chemically synthesizing ribozymes with modifications that prevent their

20 degradation by serum ribonucleases (see *e.g.*, Int. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. WO 92/07065; Perrault *et al.*, 1990; Pieken *et al.*, 1991; Usman and Cedergren, 1992; Int. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. WO 93/15187; Int. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. WO 91/03162; Eur. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. 92110298.4; U. S. Patent 5,334,711; and Int. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. WO 94/13688, which describe various chemical modifications that can be made to the sugar moieties of

25 enzymatic RNA molecules), modifications which enhance their efficacy in cells, and removal of stem II bases to shorten RNA synthesis times and reduce chemical requirements.

Sullivan *et al.* (Int. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. WO 94/02595) describes the general methods for delivery of enzymatic RNA molecules. Ribozymes may be

administered to cells by a variety of methods known to those familiar to the art, including, but not restricted to, encapsulation in liposomes, by iontophoresis, or by incorporation into other vehicles, such as hydrogels, cyclodextrins, biodegradable nanocapsules, and bioadhesive microspheres. For some indications, ribozymes may be directly delivered *ex vivo* to cells or tissues with or without the aforementioned vehicles. Alternatively, the RNA/vehicle combination may be locally delivered by direct inhalation, by direct injection or by use of a catheter, infusion pump or stent. Other routes of delivery include, but are not limited to, intravascular, intramuscular, subcutaneous or joint injection, aerosol inhalation, oral (tablet or pill form), topical, systemic, ocular, intraperitoneal and/or intrathecal delivery. More detailed descriptions of ribozyme delivery and administration are provided in Int. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. WO 94/02595 and Int. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. WO 93/23569, each specifically incorporated herein by reference.

Another means of accumulating high concentrations of a ribozyme(s) within cells is to incorporate the ribozyme-encoding sequences into a DNA expression vector. Transcription of the ribozyme sequences are driven from a promoter for eukaryotic RNA polymerase I (pol I), RNA polymerase II (pol II), or RNA polymerase III (pol III). Transcripts from pol II or pol III promoters will be expressed at high levels in all cells; the levels of a given pol II promoter in a given cell type will depend on the nature of the gene regulatory sequences (enhancers, silencers, *etc.*) present nearby. Prokaryotic RNA polymerase promoters may also be used, providing that the prokaryotic RNA polymerase enzyme is expressed in the appropriate cells (Elroy-Stein and Moss, 1990; Gao and Huang, 1993; Lieber *et al.*, 1993; Zhou *et al.*, 1990). Ribozymes expressed from such promoters can function in mammalian cells (*e.g.* Kashani-Saber *et al.*, 1992; Ojwang *et al.*, 1992; Chen *et al.*, 1992; Yu *et al.*, 1993; L'Huillier *et al.*, 1992; Lisiewicz *et al.*, 1993). Such transcription units can be incorporated into a variety of vectors for introduction into mammalian cells, including but not restricted to, plasmid DNA vectors, viral DNA vectors (such as adenovirus or adeno-associated vectors), or viral RNA vectors (such as retroviral, semliki forest virus, sindbis virus vectors).



Ribozymes may be used as diagnostic tools to examine genetic drift and mutations within diseased cells. They can also be used to assess levels of the target RNA molecule. The close relationship between ribozyme activity and the structure of the target RNA allows the detection of mutations in any region of the molecule which alters the base-pairing and three-dimensional structure of the target RNA. By using multiple ribozymes, one may map nucleotide changes which are important to RNA structure and function *in vitro*, as well as in cells and tissues. Cleavage of target RNAs with ribozymes may be used to inhibit gene expression and define the role (essentially) of specified gene products in the progression of disease. In this manner, other genetic targets may be defined as important mediators of the disease. These studies will lead to better treatment of the disease progression by affording the possibility of combinational therapies (e.g., multiple ribozymes targeted to different genes, ribozymes coupled with known small molecule inhibitors, or intermittent treatment with combinations of ribozymes and/or other chemical or biological molecules). Other *in vitro* uses of ribozymes are well known in the art, and include detection of the presence of mRNA associated with an IL-5 related condition. Such RNA is detected by determining the presence of a cleavage product after treatment with a ribozyme using standard methodology.

#### PEPTIDE NUCLEIC ACIDS

In certain embodiments, the inventors contemplate the use of peptide nucleic acids (PNAs) in the practice of the methods of the invention. PNA is a DNA mimic in which the nucleobases are attached to a pseudopeptide backbone (Good and Nielsen, 1997). PNA is able to be utilized in a number methods that traditionally have used RNA or DNA. Often PNA sequences perform better in techniques than the corresponding RNA or DNA sequences and have utilities that are not inherent to RNA or DNA. A review of PNA including methods of making, characteristics of, and methods of using, is provided by Corey (1997) and is incorporated herein by reference. As such, in certain embodiments, one may prepare PNA sequences that are complementary to one or more portions of the ACE mRNA sequence, and such PNA compositions may be used to regulate, alter,

decrease, or reduce the translation of ACE-specific mRNA, and thereby alter the level of ACE activity in a host cell to which such PNA compositions have been administered.

PNAs have 2-aminoethyl-glycine linkages replacing the normal phosphodiester backbone of DNA (Nielsen *et al.*, 1991; Hanvey *et al.*, 1992; Hyrup and Nielsen, 1996; Neilsen, 1996). This chemistry has three important consequences: firstly, in contrast to DNA or phosphorothioate oligonucleotides, PNAs are neutral molecules; secondly, PNAs are achiral, which avoids the need to develop a stereoselective synthesis; and thirdly, PNA synthesis uses standard Boc (Dueholm *et al.*, 1994) or Fmoc (Thomson *et al.*, 1995) protocols for solid-phase peptide synthesis, although other methods, including a modified Merrifield method, have been used (Christensen *et al.*, 1995).

PNA monomers or ready-made oligomers are commercially available from PerSeptive Biosystems (Framingham, MA). PNA syntheses by either Boc or Fmoc protocols are straightforward using manual or automated protocols (Norton *et al.*, 1995). The manual protocol lends itself to the production of chemically modified PNAs or the simultaneous synthesis of families of closely related PNAs.

As with peptide synthesis, the success of a particular PNA synthesis will depend on the properties of the chosen sequence. For example, while in theory PNAs can incorporate any combination of nucleotide bases, the presence of adjacent purines can lead to deletions of one or more residues in the product. In expectation of this difficulty, it is suggested that, in producing PNAs with adjacent purines, one should repeat the coupling of residues likely to be added inefficiently. This should be followed by the purification of PNAs by reverse-phase high-pressure liquid chromatography (Norton *et al.*, 1995) providing yields and purity of product similar to those observed during the synthesis of peptides.

Modifications of PNAs for a given application may be accomplished by coupling amino acids during solid-phase synthesis or by attaching compounds that contain a carboxylic acid group to the exposed N-terminal amine. Alternatively, PNAs can be modified after synthesis by coupling to an introduced lysine or cysteine. The ease with which PNAs can be modified facilitates optimization for better solubility or for specific

functional requirements. Once synthesized, the identity of PNAs and their derivatives can be confirmed by mass spectrometry. Several studies have made and utilized modifications of PNAs (Norton *et al.*, 1995; Haaima *et al.*, 1996; Stetsenko *et al.*, 1996; Petersen *et al.*, 1995; Ulmann *et al.*, 1996; Koch *et al.*, 1995; Orum *et al.*, 1995; Footer *et al.*, 1996; Griffith *et al.*, 1995; Kremsky *et al.*, 1996; Pardridge *et al.*, 1995; Boffa *et al.*, 1995; Landsdorp *et al.*, 1996; Gambacorti-Passerini *et al.*, 1996; Armitage *et al.*, 1997; Seeger *et al.*, 1997; Ruskowski *et al.*, 1997). U.S. Patent No. 5,700,922 discusses PNA-DNA-PNA chimeric molecules and their uses in diagnostics, modulating protein in organisms, and treatment of conditions susceptible to therapeutics.

10 In contrast to DNA and RNA, which contain negatively charged linkages, the PNA backbone is neutral. In spite of this dramatic alteration, PNAs recognize complementary DNA and RNA by Watson-Crick pairing (Egholm *et al.*, 1993), validating the initial modeling by Nielsen *et al.* (1991). PNAs lack 3' to 5' polarity and can bind in either parallel or antiparallel fashion, with the antiparallel mode being preferred (Egholm *et al.*, 1993).

15 Hybridization of DNA oligonucleotides to DNA and RNA is destabilized by electrostatic repulsion between the negatively charged phosphate backbones of the complementary strands. By contrast, the absence of charge repulsion in PNA-DNA or PNA-RNA duplexes increases the melting temperature ( $T_m$ ) and reduces the dependence of  $T_m$  on the concentration of mono- or divalent cations (Nielsen *et al.*, 1991). The enhanced rate and affinity of hybridization are significant because they are responsible for the surprising ability of PNAs to perform strand invasion of complementary sequences within relaxed double-stranded DNA. In addition, the efficient hybridization at inverted repeats suggests that PNAs can recognize secondary structure effectively within double-stranded DNA. Enhanced recognition also occurs with PNAs immobilized on surfaces, and Wang *et al.* have shown that support-bound PNAs can be used to detect hybridization events (Wang *et al.*, 1996).

25 One might expect that tight binding of PNAs to complementary sequences would also increase binding to similar (but not identical) sequences, reducing the sequence

specificity of PNA recognition. As with DNA hybridization, however, selective recognition can be achieved by balancing oligomer length and incubation temperature. Moreover, selective hybridization of PNAs is encouraged by PNA-DNA hybridization being less tolerant of base mismatches than DNA-DNA hybridization. For example, a  
 5 single mismatch within a 16 bp PNA-DNA duplex can reduce the  $T_m$  by up to 15°C (Egholm *et al.*, 1993). This high level of discrimination has allowed the development of several PNA-based strategies for the analysis of point mutations (Wang *et al.*, 1996; Carlsson *et al.*, 1996; Thiede *et al.*, 1996; Webb and Hurskainen, 1996; Perry-O'Keefe *et al.*, 1996).

10 High-affinity binding provides clear advantages for molecular recognition and the development of new applications for PNAs. For example, 11-13 nucleotide PNAs inhibit the activity of telomerase, a ribonucleo-protein that extends telomere ends using an essential RNA template, while the analogous DNA oligomers do not (Norton *et al.*, 1996).

Neutral PNAs are more hydrophobic than analogous DNA oligomers, and  
 15 this can lead to difficulty solubilizing them at neutral pH, especially if the PNAs have a high purine content or if they have the potential to form secondary structures. Their solubility can be enhanced by attaching one or more positive charges to the PNA termini (Nielsen *et al.*, 1991).

Findings by Allfrey and colleagues suggest that strand invasion will occur  
 20 spontaneously at sequences within chromosomal DNA (Boffa *et al.*, 1995; Boffa *et al.*, 1996). These studies targeted PNAs to triplet repeats of the nucleotides CAG and used this recognition to purify transcriptionally active DNA (Boffa *et al.*, 1995) and to inhibit transcription (Boffa *et al.*, 1996). This result suggests that if PNAs can be delivered within cells then they will have the potential to be general sequence-specific regulators of gene  
 25 expression. Studies and reviews concerning the use of PNAs as antisense and anti-gene agents include Nielsen *et al.* (1993b), Hanvey *et al.* (1992), and Good and Nielsen (1997). Koppelhus *et al.* (1997) have used PNAs to inhibit HIV-1 inverse transcription, showing that PNAs may be used for antiviral therapies.

Methods of characterizing the antisense binding properties of PNAs are discussed in Rose (1993) and Jensen *et al.* (1997). Rose uses capillary gel electrophoresis to determine binding of PNAs to their complementary oligonucleotide, measuring the relative binding kinetics and stoichiometry. Similar types of measurements were made by

5 Jensen *et al.* using BIAcore™ technology.

Other applications of PNAs include use in DNA strand invasion (Nielsen *et al.*, 1991), antisense inhibition (Hanvey *et al.*, 1992), mutational analysis (Orum *et al.*, 1993), enhancers of transcription (Mollegaard *et al.*, 1994), nucleic acid purification (Orum *et al.*, 1995), isolation of transcriptionally active genes (Boffa *et al.*, 1995), blocking of

10 transcription factor binding (Vickers *et al.*, 1995), genome cleavage (Veselkov *et al.*, 1996), biosensors (Wang *et al.*, 1996), *in situ* hybridization (Thisted *et al.*, 1996), and in a alternative to Southern blotting (Perry-O'Keefe, 1996).

#### POLYPEPTIDE COMPOSITIONS

The present invention, in other aspects, provides polypeptide compositions.

15 Generally, a polypeptide of the invention will be an isolated polypeptide (or an epitope, variant, or active fragment thereof) derived from a mammalian species. Preferably, the polypeptide is encoded by a polynucleotide sequence disclosed herein or a sequence which hybridizes under moderately stringent conditions to a polynucleotide sequence disclosed herein. Alternatively, the polypeptide may be defined as a polypeptide which comprises a

20 contiguous amino acid sequence from an amino acid sequence disclosed herein, or which polypeptide comprises an entire amino acid sequence disclosed herein.

In the present invention, a polypeptide composition is also understood to comprise one or more polypeptides that are immunologically reactive with antibodies generated against a polypeptide of the invention, particularly a polypeptide having the

25 amino acid sequence disclosed in SEQ ID NO:110, 112, 114, 152, 155, 156, 159, 161, 165, 166, 169, 170, 172, 174, 176, 225, 226-251, 252, 338-344, 346, 348 and 350, or to active fragments, or to variants or biological functional equivalents thereof.

Likewise, a polypeptide composition of the present invention is understood to comprise one or more polypeptides that are capable of eliciting antibodies that are immunologically reactive with one or more polypeptides encoded by one or more contiguous nucleic acid sequences contained in SEQ ID NO:1-109, 111, 113, 115-151, 5 153, 154, 157, 158, 160, 162-164, 167, 168, 171, 173, 175, 177-224, 255-337, 345, 347 and 349, or to active fragments, or to variants thereof, or to one or more nucleic acid sequences which hybridize to one or more of these sequences under conditions of moderate to high stringency. Particularly illustrative polypeptides include the amino acid sequence disclosed in SEQ ID NO:110, 112, 114, 152, 155, 156, 159, 161, 165, 166, 169, 170, 172, 174, 176, 10 225, 226-251, 252, 338-344, 346, 348 and 350.

As used herein, an active fragment of a polypeptide includes a whole or a portion of a polypeptide which is modified by conventional techniques, *e.g.*, mutagenesis, or by addition, deletion, or substitution, but which active fragment exhibits substantially the same structure function, antigenicity, etc., as a polypeptide as described herein.

15 In certain illustrative embodiments, the polypeptides of the invention will comprise at least an immunogenic portion of a lung tumor protein or a variant thereof, as described herein. As noted above, a "lung tumor protein" is a protein that is expressed by lung tumor cells. Proteins that are lung tumor proteins also react detectably within an immunoassay (such as an ELISA) with antisera from a patient with lung cancer. 20 Polypeptides as described herein may be of any length. Additional sequences derived from the native protein and/or heterologous sequences may be present, and such sequences may (but need not) possess further immunogenic or antigenic properties.

An "immunogenic portion," as used herein is a portion of a protein that is recognized (*i.e.*, specifically bound) by a B-cell and/or T-cell surface antigen receptor. 25 Such immunogenic portions generally comprise at least 5 amino acid residues, more preferably at least 10, and still more preferably at least 20 amino acid residues of a lung tumor protein or a variant thereof. Certain preferred immunogenic portions include peptides in which an N-terminal leader sequence and/or transmembrane domain have been deleted. Other preferred immunogenic portions may contain a small N- and/or C-terminal

deletion (e.g., 1-30 amino acids, preferably 5-15 amino acids), relative to the mature protein.

Immunogenic portions may generally be identified using well known techniques, such as those summarized in Paul, *Fundamental Immunology*, 3rd ed., 243-247 (Raven Press, 1993) and references cited therein. Such techniques include screening polypeptides for the ability to react with antigen-specific antibodies, antisera and/or T-cell lines or clones. As used herein, antisera and antibodies are "antigen-specific" if they specifically bind to an antigen (i.e., they react with the protein in an ELISA or other immunoassay, and do not react detectably with unrelated proteins). Such antisera and antibodies may be prepared as described herein, and using well known techniques. An immunogenic portion of a native lung tumor protein is a portion that reacts with such antisera and/or T-cells at a level that is not substantially less than the reactivity of the full length polypeptide (e.g., in an ELISA and/or T-cell reactivity assay). Such immunogenic portions may react within such assays at a level that is similar to or greater than the reactivity of the full length polypeptide. Such screens may generally be performed using methods well known to those of ordinary skill in the art, such as those described in Harlow and Lane, *Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1988. For example, a polypeptide may be immobilized on a solid support and contacted with patient sera to allow binding of antibodies within the sera to the immobilized polypeptide. Unbound sera may then be removed and bound antibodies detected using, for example, <sup>125</sup>I-labeled Protein A.

As noted above, a composition may comprise a variant of a native lung tumor protein. A polypeptide "variant," as used herein, is a polypeptide that differs from a native lung tumor protein in one or more substitutions, deletions, additions and/or insertions, such that the immunogenicity of the polypeptide is not substantially diminished. In other words, the ability of a variant to react with antigen-specific antisera may be enhanced or unchanged, relative to the native protein, or may be diminished by less than 50%, and preferably less than 20%, relative to the native protein. Such variants may generally be identified by modifying one of the above polypeptide sequences and

evaluating the reactivity of the modified polypeptide with antigen-specific antibodies or antisera as described herein. Preferred variants include those in which one or more portions, such as an N-terminal leader sequence or transmembrane domain, have been removed. Other preferred variants include variants in which a small portion (*e.g.*, 1-30  
 5 amino acids, preferably 5-15 amino acids) has been removed from the N- and/or C-terminal of the mature protein.

Polypeptide variants encompassed by the present invention include those exhibiting at least about 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% or more identity (determined as described above) to the polypeptides  
 10 disclosed herein.

Preferably, a variant contains conservative substitutions. A "conservative substitution" is one in which an amino acid is substituted for another amino acid that has similar properties, such that one skilled in the art of peptide chemistry would expect the secondary structure and hydropathic nature of the polypeptide to be substantially  
 15 unchanged. Amino acid substitutions may generally be made on the basis of similarity in polarity, charge, solubility, hydrophobicity, hydrophilicity and/or the amphipathic nature of the residues. For example, negatively charged amino acids include aspartic acid and glutamic acid; positively charged amino acids include lysine and arginine; and amino acids with uncharged polar head groups having similar hydrophilicity values include leucine,  
 20 isoleucine and valine; glycine and alanine; asparagine and glutamine; and serine, threonine, phenylalanine and tyrosine. Other groups of amino acids that may represent conservative changes include: (1) ala, pro, gly, glu, asp, gln, asn, ser, thr; (2) cys, ser, tyr, thr; (3) val, ile, leu, met, ala, phe; (4) lys, arg, his; and (5) phe, tyr, trp, his. A variant may also, or alternatively, contain nonconservative changes. In a preferred embodiment, variant  
 25 polypeptides differ from a native sequence by substitution, deletion or addition of five amino acids or fewer. Variants may also (or alternatively) be modified by, for example, the deletion or addition of amino acids that have minimal influence on the immunogenicity, secondary structure and hydropathic nature of the polypeptide.



As noted above, polypeptides may comprise a signal (or leader) sequence at the N-terminal end of the protein, which co-translationally or post-translationally directs transfer of the protein. The polypeptide may also be conjugated to a linker or other sequence for ease of synthesis, purification or identification of the polypeptide (e.g., poly-  
5 His), or to enhance binding of the polypeptide to a solid support. For example, a polypeptide may be conjugated to an immunoglobulin Fc region.

Polypeptides may be prepared using any of a variety of well known techniques. Recombinant polypeptides encoded by DNA sequences as described above may be readily prepared from the DNA sequences using any of a variety of expression  
10 vectors known to those of ordinary skill in the art. Expression may be achieved in any appropriate host cell that has been transformed or transfected with an expression vector containing a DNA molecule that encodes a recombinant polypeptide. Suitable host cells include prokaryotes, yeast, and higher eukaryotic cells, such as mammalian cells and plant cells. Preferably, the host cells employed are *E. coli*, yeast or a mammalian cell line such  
15 as COS or CHO. Supernatants from suitable host/vector systems which secrete recombinant protein or polypeptide into culture media may be first concentrated using a commercially available filter. Following concentration, the concentrate may be applied to a suitable purification matrix such as an affinity matrix or an ion exchange resin. Finally, one or more reverse phase HPLC steps can be employed to further purify a recombinant  
20 polypeptide.

Portions and other variants having less than about 100 amino acids, and generally less than about 50 amino acids, may also be generated by synthetic means, using techniques well known to those of ordinary skill in the art. For example, such polypeptides may be synthesized using any of the commercially available solid-phase techniques, such  
25 as the Merrifield solid-phase synthesis method, where amino acids are sequentially added to a growing amino acid chain. See Merrifield, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 85:2149-2146, 1963. Equipment for automated synthesis of polypeptides is commercially available from suppliers such as Perkin Elmer/Applied BioSystems Division (Foster City, CA), and may be operated according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Within certain specific embodiments, a polypeptide may be a fusion protein that comprises multiple polypeptides as described herein, or that comprises at least one polypeptide as described herein and an unrelated sequence, such as a known tumor protein. A fusion partner may, for example, assist in providing T helper epitopes (an immunological fusion partner), preferably T helper epitopes recognized by humans, or may assist in  
 5 expressing the protein (an expression enhancer) at higher yields than the native recombinant protein. Certain preferred fusion partners are both immunological and expression enhancing fusion partners. Other fusion partners may be selected so as to increase the solubility of the protein or to enable the protein to be targeted to desired  
 10 intracellular compartments. Still further fusion partners include affinity tags, which facilitate purification of the protein.

Fusion proteins may generally be prepared using standard techniques, including chemical conjugation. Preferably, a fusion protein is expressed as a recombinant protein, allowing the production of increased levels, relative to a non-fused protein, in an  
 15 expression system. Briefly, DNA sequences encoding the polypeptide components may be assembled separately, and ligated into an appropriate expression vector. The 3' end of the DNA sequence encoding one polypeptide component is ligated, with or without a peptide linker, to the 5' end of a DNA sequence encoding the second polypeptide component so that the reading frames of the sequences are in phase. This permits translation into a single  
 20 fusion protein that retains the biological activity of both component polypeptides.

A peptide linker sequence may be employed to separate the first and second polypeptide components by a distance sufficient to ensure that each polypeptide folds into its secondary and tertiary structures. Such a peptide linker sequence is incorporated into the fusion protein using standard techniques well known in the art. Suitable peptide linker  
 25 sequences may be chosen based on the following factors: (1) their ability to adopt a flexible extended conformation; (2) their inability to adopt a secondary structure that could interact with functional epitopes on the first and second polypeptides; and (3) the lack of hydrophobic or charged residues that might react with the polypeptide functional epitopes. Preferred peptide linker sequences contain Gly, Asn and Ser residues. Other near neutral

amino acids, such as Thr and Ala may also be used in the linker sequence. Amino acid sequences which may be usefully employed as linkers include those disclosed in Maratea *et al.*, *Gene* 40:39-46, 1985; Murphy *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 83:8258-8262, 1986; U.S. Patent No. 4,935,233 and U.S. Patent No. 4,751,180. The linker sequence may  
 5 generally be from 1 to about 50 amino acids in length. Linker sequences are not required when the first and second polypeptides have non-essential N-terminal amino acid regions that can be used to separate the functional domains and prevent steric interference.

The ligated DNA sequences are operably linked to suitable transcriptional or translational regulatory elements. The regulatory elements responsible for expression of  
 10 DNA are located only 5' to the DNA sequence encoding the first polypeptides. Similarly, stop codons required to end translation and transcription termination signals are only present 3' to the DNA sequence encoding the second polypeptide.

Fusion proteins are also provided. Such proteins comprise a polypeptide as described herein together with an unrelated immunogenic protein. Preferably the  
 15 immunogenic protein is capable of eliciting a recall response. Examples of such proteins include tetanus, tuberculosis and hepatitis proteins (*see, for example, Stoute et al. New Engl. J. Med.*, 336:86-91, 1997).

Within preferred embodiments, an immunological fusion partner is derived from protein D, a surface protein of the gram-negative bacterium *Haemophilus influenza B* (WO 91/18926). Preferably, a protein D derivative comprises approximately the first third  
 20 of the protein (*e.g.*, the first N-terminal 100-110 amino acids), and a protein D derivative may be lipidated. Within certain preferred embodiments, the first 109 residues of a Lipoprotein D fusion partner is included on the N-terminus to provide the polypeptide with additional exogenous T-cell epitopes and to increase the expression level in *E. coli* (thus  
 25 functioning as an expression enhancer). The lipid tail ensures optimal presentation of the antigen to antigen presenting cells. Other fusion partners include the non-structural protein from influenzae virus, NS1 (hemagglutinin). Typically, the N-terminal 81 amino acids are used, although different fragments that include T-helper epitopes may be used.

In another embodiment, the immunological fusion partner is the protein known as LYTA, or a portion thereof (preferably a C-terminal portion). LYTA is derived from *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, which synthesizes an N-acetyl-L-alanine amidase known as amidase LYTA (encoded by the *LytA* gene; *Gene* 43:265-292, 1986). LYTA is an autolysin that specifically degrades certain bonds in the peptidoglycan backbone. The C-terminal domain of the LYTA protein is responsible for the affinity to the choline or to some choline analogues such as DEAE. This property has been exploited for the development of *E. coli* C-LYTA expressing plasmids useful for expression of fusion proteins. Purification of hybrid proteins containing the C-LYTA fragment at the amino terminus has been described (see *Biotechnology* 10:795-798, 1992). Within a preferred embodiment, a repeat portion of LYTA may be incorporated into a fusion protein. A repeat portion is found in the C-terminal region starting at residue 178. A particularly preferred repeat portion incorporates residues 188-305.

In general, polypeptides (including fusion proteins) and polynucleotides as described herein are isolated. An "isolated" polypeptide or polynucleotide is one that is removed from its original environment. For example, a naturally-occurring protein is isolated if it is separated from some or all of the coexisting materials in the natural system. Preferably, such polypeptides are at least about 90% pure, more preferably at least about 95% pure and most preferably at least about 99% pure. A polynucleotide is considered to be isolated if, for example, it is cloned into a vector that is not a part of the natural environment.

#### **BINDING AGENTS**

The present invention further provides agents, such as antibodies and antigen-binding fragments thereof, that specifically bind to a lung tumor protein. As used herein, an antibody, or antigen-binding fragment thereof, is said to "specifically bind" to a lung tumor protein if it reacts at a detectable level (within, for example, an ELISA) with a lung tumor protein, and does not react detectably with unrelated proteins under similar conditions. As used herein, "binding" refers to a noncovalent association between two

separate molecules such that a complex is formed. The ability to bind may be evaluated by, for example, determining a binding constant for the formation of the complex. The binding constant is the value obtained when the concentration of the complex is divided by the product of the component concentrations. In general, two compounds are said to

5 "bind," in the context of the present invention, when the binding constant for complex formation exceeds about  $10^3$  L/mol. The binding constant may be determined using methods well known in the art.

Binding agents may be further capable of differentiating between patients with and without a cancer, such as lung cancer, using the representative assays provided

10 herein. In other words, antibodies or other binding agents that bind to a lung tumor protein will generate a signal indicating the presence of a cancer in at least about 20% of patients with the disease, and will generate a negative signal indicating the absence of the disease in at least about 90% of individuals without the cancer. To determine whether a binding agent satisfies this requirement, biological samples (*e.g.*, blood, sera, sputum, urine and/or

15 tumor biopsies) from patients with and without a cancer (as determined using standard clinical tests) may be assayed as described herein for the presence of polypeptides that bind to the binding agent. It will be apparent that a statistically significant number of samples with and without the disease should be assayed. Each binding agent should satisfy the above criteria; however, those of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that binding agents

20 may be used in combination to improve sensitivity.

Any agent that satisfies the above requirements may be a binding agent. For example, a binding agent may be a ribosome, with or without a peptide component, an RNA molecule or a polypeptide. In a preferred embodiment, a binding agent is an antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof. Antibodies may be prepared by any of a

25 variety of techniques known to those of ordinary skill in the art. *See, e.g.*, Harlow and Lane, *Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1988. In general, antibodies can be produced by cell culture techniques, including the generation of monoclonal antibodies as described herein, or via transfection of antibody genes into suitable bacterial or mammalian cell hosts, in order to allow for the production of

recombinant antibodies. In one technique, an immunogen comprising the polypeptide is initially injected into any of a wide variety of mammals (e.g., mice, rats, rabbits, sheep or goats). In this step, the polypeptides of this invention may serve as the immunogen without modification. Alternatively, particularly for relatively short polypeptides, a superior  
 5 immune response may be elicited if the polypeptide is joined to a carrier protein, such as bovine serum albumin or keyhole limpet hemocyanin. The immunogen is injected into the animal host, preferably according to a predetermined schedule incorporating one or more booster immunizations, and the animals are bled periodically. Polyclonal antibodies specific for the polypeptide may then be purified from such antisera by, for example,  
 10 affinity chromatography using the polypeptide coupled to a suitable solid support.

Monoclonal antibodies specific for an antigenic polypeptide of interest may be prepared, for example, using the technique of Kohler and Milstein, *Eur. J. Immunol.* 6:511-519, 1976, and improvements thereto. Briefly, these methods involve the preparation of immortal cell lines capable of producing antibodies having the desired  
 15 specificity (i.e., reactivity with the polypeptide of interest). Such cell lines may be produced, for example, from spleen cells obtained from an animal immunized as described above. The spleen cells are then immortalized by, for example, fusion with a myeloma cell fusion partner, preferably one that is syngeneic with the immunized animal. A variety of fusion techniques may be employed. For example, the spleen cells and myeloma cells may  
 20 be combined with a nonionic detergent for a few minutes and then plated at low density on a selective medium that supports the growth of hybrid cells, but not myeloma cells. A preferred selection technique uses HAT (hypoxanthine, aminopterin, thymidine) selection. After a sufficient time, usually about 1 to 2 weeks, colonies of hybrids are observed. Single colonies are selected and their culture supernatants tested for binding activity  
 25 against the polypeptide. Hybridomas having high reactivity and specificity are preferred.

Monoclonal antibodies may be isolated from the supernatants of growing hybridoma colonies. In addition, various techniques may be employed to enhance the yield, such as injection of the hybridoma cell line into the peritoneal cavity of a suitable vertebrate host, such as a mouse. Monoclonal antibodies may then be harvested from the

ascites fluid or the blood. Contaminants may be removed from the antibodies by conventional techniques, such as chromatography, gel filtration, precipitation, and extraction. The polypeptides of this invention may be used in the purification process in, for example, an affinity chromatography step.

5           Within certain embodiments, the use of antigen-binding fragments of antibodies may be preferred. Such fragments include Fab fragments, which may be prepared using standard techniques. Briefly, immunoglobulins may be purified from rabbit serum by affinity chromatography on Protein A bead columns (Harlow and Lane, *Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1988) and digested by  
10   papain to yield Fab and Fc fragments. The Fab and Fc fragments may be separated by affinity chromatography on protein A bead columns.

          Monoclonal antibodies of the present invention may be coupled to one or more therapeutic agents. Suitable agents in this regard include radionuclides, differentiation inducers, drugs, toxins, and derivatives thereof. Preferred radionuclides  
15   include  $^{90}\text{Y}$ ,  $^{123}\text{I}$ ,  $^{125}\text{I}$ ,  $^{131}\text{I}$ ,  $^{186}\text{Re}$ ,  $^{188}\text{Re}$ ,  $^{211}\text{At}$ , and  $^{212}\text{Bi}$ . Preferred drugs include methotrexate, and pyrimidine and purine analogs. Preferred differentiation inducers include phorbol esters and butyric acid. Preferred toxins include ricin, abrin, diphtheria toxin, cholera toxin, gelonin, *Pseudomonas* exotoxin, *Shigella* toxin, and pokeweed antiviral protein.

20           A therapeutic agent may be coupled (*e.g.*, covalently bonded) to a suitable monoclonal antibody either directly or indirectly (*e.g.*, via a linker group). A direct reaction between an agent and an antibody is possible when each possesses a substituent capable of reacting with the other. For example, a nucleophilic group, such as an amino or sulfhydryl group, on one may be capable of reacting with a carbonyl-containing group,  
25   such as an anhydride or an acid halide, or with an alkyl group containing a good leaving group (*e.g.*, a halide) on the other.

          Alternatively, it may be desirable to couple a therapeutic agent and an antibody via a linker group. A linker group can function as a spacer to distance an antibody from an agent in order to avoid interference with binding capabilities. A linker

group can also serve to increase the chemical reactivity of a substituent on an agent or an antibody, and thus increase the coupling efficiency. An increase in chemical reactivity may also facilitate the use of agents, or functional groups on agents, which otherwise would not be possible.

5           It will be evident to those skilled in the art that a variety of bifunctional or polyfunctional reagents, both homo- and hetero-functional (such as those described in the catalog of the Pierce Chemical Co., Rockford, IL), may be employed as the linker group. Coupling may be effected, for example, through amino groups, carboxyl groups, sulphydryl groups or oxidized carbohydrate residues. There are numerous references describing such  
10 methodology, *e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,671,958, to Rodwell *et al.*

Where a therapeutic agent is more potent when free from the antibody portion of the immunoconjugates of the present invention, it may be desirable to use a linker group which is cleavable during or upon internalization into a cell. A number of different cleavable linker groups have been described. The mechanisms for the  
15 intracellular release of an agent from these linker groups include cleavage by reduction of a disulfide bond (*e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,489,710, to Spitler), by irradiation of a photolabile bond (*e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,625,014, to Senter *et al.*), by hydrolysis of derivatized amino acid side chains (*e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,638,045, to Kohn *et al.*), by serum complement-mediated hydrolysis (*e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,671,958, to Rodwell *et al.*), and acid-catalyzed  
20 hydrolysis (*e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,569,789, to Blattler *et al.*).

It may be desirable to couple more than one agent to an antibody. In one embodiment, multiple molecules of an agent are coupled to one antibody molecule. In another embodiment, more than one type of agent may be coupled to one antibody. Regardless of the particular embodiment, immunoconjugates with more than one agent  
25 may be prepared in a variety of ways. For example, more than one agent may be coupled directly to an antibody molecule, or linkers that provide multiple sites for attachment can be used. Alternatively, a carrier can be used.

A carrier may bear the agents in a variety of ways, including covalent bonding either directly or via a linker group. Suitable carriers include proteins such as



albumins (e.g., U.S. Patent No. 4,507,234, to Kato *et al.*), peptides and polysaccharides such as aminodextran (e.g., U.S. Patent No. 4,699,784, to Shih *et al.*). A carrier may also bear an agent by noncovalent bonding or by encapsulation, such as within a liposome vesicle (e.g., U.S. Patent Nos. 4,429,008 and 4,873,088). Carriers specific for radionuclide agents include radiohalogenated small molecules and chelating compounds. For example, U.S. Patent No. 4,735,792 discloses representative radiohalogenated small molecules and their synthesis. A radionuclide chelate may be formed from chelating compounds that include those containing nitrogen and sulfur atoms as the donor atoms for binding the metal, or metal oxide, radionuclide. For example, U.S. Patent No. 4,673,562, to Davison *et al.* discloses representative chelating compounds and their synthesis.

A variety of routes of administration for the antibodies and immunoconjugates may be used. Typically, administration will be intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous or in the bed of a resected tumor. It will be evident that the precise dose of the antibody/immunoconjugate will vary depending upon the antibody used, the antigen density on the tumor, and the rate of clearance of the antibody.

## T CELLS

Immunotherapeutic compositions may also, or alternatively, comprise T cells specific for a lung tumor protein. Such cells may generally be prepared *in vitro* or *ex vivo*, using standard procedures. For example, T cells may be isolated from bone marrow, peripheral blood, or a fraction of bone marrow or peripheral blood of a patient, using a commercially available cell separation system, such as the Isolex™ System, available from Nexell Therapeutics, Inc. (Irvine, CA; see also U.S. Patent No. 5,240,856; U.S. Patent No. 5,215,926; WO 89/06280; WO 91/16116 and WO 92/07243). Alternatively, T cells may be derived from related or unrelated humans, non-human mammals, cell lines or cultures.

T cells may be stimulated with a lung tumor polypeptide, polynucleotide encoding a lung tumor polypeptide and/or an antigen presenting cell (APC) that expresses such a polypeptide. Such stimulation is performed under conditions and for a time sufficient to permit the generation of T cells that are specific for the polypeptide.

Preferably, a lung tumor polypeptide or polynucleotide is present within a delivery vehicle, such as a microsphere, to facilitate the generation of specific T cells.

T cells are considered to be specific for a lung tumor polypeptide if the T cells specifically proliferate, secrete cytokines or kill target cells coated with the polypeptide or expressing a gene encoding the polypeptide. T cell specificity may be evaluated using any of a variety of standard techniques. For example, within a chromium release assay or proliferation assay, a stimulation index of more than two fold increase in lysis and/or proliferation, compared to negative controls, indicates T cell specificity. Such assays may be performed, for example, as described in Chen *et al.*, *Cancer Res.* 54:1065-1070, 1994. Alternatively, detection of the proliferation of T cells may be accomplished by a variety of known techniques. For example, T cell proliferation can be detected by measuring an increased rate of DNA synthesis (*e.g.*, by pulse-labeling cultures of T cells with tritiated thymidine and measuring the amount of tritiated thymidine incorporated into DNA). Contact with a lung tumor polypeptide (100 ng/ml - 100 µg/ml, preferably 200 ng/ml - 25 µg/ml) for 3 - 7 days should result in at least a two fold increase in proliferation of the T cells. Contact as described above for 2-3 hours should result in activation of the T cells, as measured using standard cytokine assays in which a two fold increase in the level of cytokine release (*e.g.*, TNF or IFN-γ) is indicative of T cell activation (*see* Coligan *et al.*, *Current Protocols in Immunology*, vol. 1, Wiley Interscience (Greene 1998)). T cells that have been activated in response to a lung tumor polypeptide, polynucleotide or polypeptide-expressing APC may be CD4<sup>+</sup> and/or CD8<sup>+</sup>. Lung tumor protein-specific T cells may be expanded using standard techniques. Within preferred embodiments, the T cells are derived from a patient, a related donor or an unrelated donor, and are administered to the patient following stimulation and expansion.

For therapeutic purposes, CD4<sup>+</sup> or CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells that proliferate in response to a lung tumor polypeptide, polynucleotide or APC can be expanded in number either *in vitro* or *in vivo*. Proliferation of such T cells *in vitro* may be accomplished in a variety of ways. For example, the T cells can be re-exposed to a lung tumor polypeptide, or a short peptide corresponding to an immunogenic portion of such a polypeptide, with or without

the addition of T cell growth factors, such as interleukin-2, and/or stimulator cells that synthesize a lung tumor polypeptide. Alternatively, one or more T cells that proliferate in the presence of a lung tumor protein can be expanded in number by cloning. Methods for cloning cells are well known in the art, and include limiting dilution.

## 5 PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS

In additional embodiments, the present invention concerns formulation of one or more of the polynucleotide, polypeptide, T-cell and/or antibody compositions disclosed herein in pharmaceutically-acceptable solutions for administration to a cell or an animal, either alone, or in combination with one or more other modalities of therapy.

10 It will also be understood that, if desired, the nucleic acid segment, RNA, DNA or PNA compositions that express a polypeptide as disclosed herein may be administered in combination with other agents as well, such as, *e.g.*, other proteins or polypeptides or various pharmaceutically-active agents. In fact, there is virtually no limit to other components that may also be included, given that the additional agents do not cause a  
15 significant adverse effect upon contact with the target cells or host tissues. The compositions may thus be delivered along with various other agents as required in the particular instance. Such compositions may be purified from host cells or other biological sources, or alternatively may be chemically synthesized as described herein. Likewise, such compositions may further comprise substituted or derivatized RNA or DNA  
20 compositions.

Formulation of pharmaceutically-acceptable excipients and carrier solutions is well-known to those of skill in the art, as is the development of suitable dosing and treatment regimens for using the particular compositions described herein in a variety of treatment regimens, including *e.g.*, oral, parenteral, intravenous, intranasal, and  
25 intramuscular administration and formulation.

# 1. ORAL DELIVERY

In certain applications, the pharmaceutical compositions disclosed herein may be delivered *via* oral administration to an animal. As such, these compositions may be formulated with an inert diluent or with an assimilable edible carrier, or they may be enclosed in hard- or soft-shell gelatin capsule, or they may be compressed into tablets, or they may be incorporated directly with the food of the diet.

The active compounds may even be incorporated with excipients and used in the form of ingestible tablets, buccal tables, troches, capsules, elixirs, suspensions, syrups, wafers, and the like (Mathiowitz *et al.*, 1997; Hwang *et al.*, 1998; U. S. Patent 5,641,515; U. S. Patent 5,580,579 and U. S. Patent 5,792,451, each specifically incorporated herein by reference in its entirety). The tablets, troches, pills, capsules and the like may also contain the following: a binder, as gum tragacanth, acacia, cornstarch, or gelatin; excipients, such as dicalcium phosphate; a disintegrating agent, such as corn starch, potato starch, alginic acid and the like; a lubricant, such as magnesium stearate; and a sweetening agent, such as sucrose, lactose or saccharin may be added or a flavoring agent, such as peppermint, oil of wintergreen, or cherry flavoring. When the dosage unit form is a capsule, it may contain, in addition to materials of the above type, a liquid carrier. Various other materials may be present as coatings or to otherwise modify the physical form of the dosage unit. For instance, tablets, pills, or capsules may be coated with shellac, sugar, or both. A syrup or elixir may contain the active compound sucrose as a sweetening agent methyl and propylparabens as preservatives, a dye and flavoring, such as cherry or orange flavor. Of course, any material used in preparing any dosage unit form should be pharmaceutically pure and substantially non-toxic in the amounts employed. In addition, the active compounds may be incorporated into sustained-release preparation and formulations.

Typically, these formulations may contain at least about 0.1% of the active compound or more, although the percentage of the active ingredient(s) may, of course, be varied and may conveniently be between about 1 or 2% and about 60% or 70% or more of the weight or volume of the total formulation. Naturally, the amount of active

compound(s) in each therapeutically useful composition may be prepared in such a way that a suitable dosage will be obtained in any given unit dose of the compound. Factors such as solubility, bioavailability, biological half-life, route of administration, product shelf life, as well as other pharmacological considerations will be contemplated by one skilled in the art of preparing such pharmaceutical formulations, and as such, a variety of dosages and treatment regimens may be desirable.

For oral administration the compositions of the present invention may alternatively be incorporated with one or more excipients in the form of a mouthwash, dentifrice, buccal tablet, oral spray, or sublingual orally-administered formulation. For example, a mouthwash may be prepared incorporating the active ingredient in the required amount in an appropriate solvent, such as a sodium borate solution (Dobell's Solution). Alternatively, the active ingredient may be incorporated into an oral solution such as one containing sodium borate, glycerin and potassium bicarbonate, or dispersed in a dentifrice, or added in a therapeutically-effective amount to a composition that may include water, binders, abrasives, flavoring agents, foaming agents, and humectants. Alternatively the compositions may be fashioned into a tablet or solution form that may be placed under the tongue or otherwise dissolved in the mouth.

## 2. INJECTABLE DELIVERY

In certain circumstances it will be desirable to deliver the pharmaceutical compositions disclosed herein parenterally, intravenously, intramuscularly, or even intraperitoneally as described in U. S. Patent 5,543,158; U. S. Patent 5,641,515 and U. S. Patent 5,399,363 (each specifically incorporated herein by reference in its entirety). Solutions of the active compounds as free base or pharmacologically acceptable salts may be prepared in water suitably mixed with a surfactant, such as hydroxypropylcellulose. Dispersions may also be prepared in glycerol, liquid polyethylene glycols, and mixtures thereof and in oils. Under ordinary conditions of storage and use, these preparations contain a preservative to prevent the growth of microorganisms.

The pharmaceutical forms suitable for injectable use include sterile aqueous solutions or dispersions and sterile powders for the extemporaneous preparation of sterile injectable solutions or dispersions (U. S. Patent 5,466,468, specifically incorporated herein by reference in its entirety). In all cases the form must be sterile and must be fluid to the extent that easy syringability exists. It must be stable under the conditions of manufacture and storage and must be preserved against the contaminating action of microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi. The carrier can be a solvent or dispersion medium containing, for example, water, ethanol, polyol (e.g., glycerol, propylene glycol, and liquid polyethylene glycol, and the like), suitable mixtures thereof, and/or vegetable oils. Proper fluidity may be maintained, for example, by the use of a coating, such as lecithin, by the maintenance of the required particle size in the case of dispersion and by the use of surfactants. The prevention of the action of microorganisms can be facilitated by various antibacterial and antifungal agents, for example, parabens, chlorobutanol, phenol, sorbic acid, thimerosal, and the like. In many cases, it will be preferable to include isotonic agents, for example, sugars or sodium chloride. Prolonged absorption of the injectable compositions can be brought about by the use in the compositions of agents delaying absorption, for example, aluminum monostearate and gelatin.

For parenteral administration in an aqueous solution, for example, the solution should be suitably buffered if necessary and the liquid diluent first rendered isotonic with sufficient saline or glucose. These particular aqueous solutions are especially suitable for intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous and intraperitoneal administration. In this connection, a sterile aqueous medium that can be employed will be known to those of skill in the art in light of the present disclosure. For example, one dosage may be dissolved in 1 ml of isotonic NaCl solution and either added to 1000 ml of hypodermoclysis fluid or injected at the proposed site of infusion, (see for example, "Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences" 15th Edition, pages 1035-1038 and 1570-1580). Some variation in dosage will necessarily occur depending on the condition of the subject being treated. The person responsible for administration will, in any event, determine the appropriate dose for the individual subject. Moreover, for human administration, preparations should meet sterility,

pyrogenicity, and the general safety and purity standards as required by FDA Office of Biologics standards.

Sterile injectable solutions are prepared by incorporating the active compounds in the required amount in the appropriate solvent with various of the other ingredients enumerated above, as required, followed by filtered sterilization. Generally, dispersions are prepared by incorporating the various sterilized active ingredients into a sterile vehicle which contains the basic dispersion medium and the required other ingredients from those enumerated above. In the case of sterile powders for the preparation of sterile injectable solutions, the preferred methods of preparation are vacuum-drying and freeze-drying techniques which yield a powder of the active ingredient plus any additional desired ingredient from a previously sterile-filtered solution thereof.

The compositions disclosed herein may be formulated in a neutral or salt form. Pharmaceutically-acceptable salts, include the acid addition salts (formed with the free amino groups of the protein) and which are formed with inorganic acids such as, for example, hydrochloric or phosphoric acids, or such organic acids as acetic, oxalic, tartaric, mandelic, and the like. Salts formed with the free carboxyl groups can also be derived from inorganic bases such as, for example, sodium, potassium, ammonium, calcium, or ferric hydroxides, and such organic bases as isopropylamine, trimethylamine, histidine, procaine and the like. Upon formulation, solutions will be administered in a manner compatible with the dosage formulation and in such amount as is therapeutically effective. The formulations are easily administered in a variety of dosage forms such as injectable solutions, drug-release capsules, and the like.

As used herein, "carrier" includes any and all solvents, dispersion media, vehicles, coatings, diluents, antibacterial and antifungal agents, isotonic and absorption delaying agents, buffers, carrier solutions, suspensions, colloids, and the like. The use of such media and agents for pharmaceutical active substances is well known in the art. Except insofar as any conventional media or agent is incompatible with the active ingredient, its use in the therapeutic compositions is contemplated. Supplementary active ingredients can also be incorporated into the compositions.

The phrase "pharmaceutically-acceptable" refers to molecular entities and compositions that do not produce an allergic or similar untoward reaction when administered to a human. The preparation of an aqueous composition that contains a protein as an active ingredient is well understood in the art. Typically, such compositions  
 5 are prepared as injectables, either as liquid solutions or suspensions; solid forms suitable for solution in, or suspension in, liquid prior to injection can also be prepared. The preparation can also be emulsified.

### 3. NASAL DELIVERY

In certain embodiments, the pharmaceutical compositions may be delivered  
 10 by intranasal sprays, inhalation, and/or other aerosol delivery vehicles. Methods for delivering genes, nucleic acids, and peptide compositions directly to the lungs *via* nasal aerosol sprays has been described *e.g.*, in U. S. Patent 5,756,353 and U. S. Patent 5,804,212 (each specifically incorporated herein by reference in its entirety). Likewise, the delivery of drugs using intranasal microparticle resins (Takenaga *et al.*, 1998) and lysophosphatidyl-  
 15 glycerol compounds (U. S. Patent 5,725,871, specifically incorporated herein by reference in its entirety) are also well-known in the pharmaceutical arts. Likewise, transmucosal drug delivery in the form of a polytetrafluoroethylene support matrix is described in U. S. Patent 5,780,045 (specifically incorporated herein by reference in its entirety).

### 4. LIPOSOME-, NANOCAPSULE-, AND MICROPARTICLE-MEDIATED DELIVERY

In certain embodiments, the inventors contemplate the use of liposomes, nanocapsules, microparticles, microspheres, lipid particles, vesicles, and the like, for the introduction of the compositions of the present invention into suitable host cells. In particular, the compositions of the present invention may be formulated for delivery either encapsulated in a lipid particle, a liposome, a vesicle, a nanosphere, or a nanoparticle or the  
 25 like.

Such formulations may be preferred for the introduction of pharmaceutically-acceptable formulations of the nucleic acids or constructs disclosed



herein. The formation and use of liposomes is generally known to those of skill in the art (see for example, Couvreur *et al.*, 1977; Couvreur, 1988; Lasic, 1998; which describes the use of liposomes and nanocapsules in the targeted antibiotic therapy for intracellular bacterial infections and diseases). Recently, liposomes were developed with improved serum stability and circulation half-times (Gabizon and Papahadjopoulos, 1988; Allen and Choun, 1987; U. S. Patent 5,741,516, specifically incorporated herein by reference in its entirety). Further, various methods of liposome and liposome like preparations as potential drug carriers have been reviewed (Takakura, 1998; Chandran *et al.*, 1997; Margalit, 1995; U. S. Patent 5,567,434; U. S. Patent 5,552,157; U. S. Patent 5,565,213; U. S. Patent 5,738,868 and U. S. Patent 5,795,587, each specifically incorporated herein by reference in its entirety).

Liposomes have been used successfully with a number of cell types that are normally resistant to transfection by other procedures including T cell suspensions, primary hepatocyte cultures and PC 12 cells (Renneisen *et al.*, 1990; Muller *et al.*, 1990). In addition, liposomes are free of the DNA length constraints that are typical of viral-based delivery systems. Liposomes have been used effectively to introduce genes, drugs (Heath and Martin, 1986; Heath *et al.*, 1986; Balazsovits *et al.*, 1989; Fresta and Puglisi, 1996), radiotherapeutic agents (Pikul *et al.*, 1987), enzymes (Imaizumi *et al.*, 1990a; Imaizumi *et al.*, 1990b), viruses (Faller and Baltimore, 1984), transcription factors and allosteric effectors (Nicolau and Gersonde, 1979) into a variety of cultured cell lines and animals. In addition, several successful clinical trials examining the effectiveness of liposome-mediated drug delivery have been completed (Lopez-Berestein *et al.*, 1985a; 1985b; Coune, 1988; Sculier *et al.*, 1988). Furthermore, several studies suggest that the use of liposomes is not associated with autoimmune responses, toxicity or gonadal localization after systemic delivery (Mori and Fukatsu, 1992).

Liposomes are formed from phospholipids that are dispersed in an aqueous medium and spontaneously form multilamellar concentric bilayer vesicles (also termed multilamellar vesicles (MLVs)). MLVs generally have diameters of from 25 nm to 4  $\mu$ m.

Sonication of MLVs results in the formation of small unilamellar vesicles (SUVs) with diameters in the range of 200 to 500 Å, containing an aqueous solution in the core.

Liposomes bear resemblance to cellular membranes and are contemplated for use in connection with the present invention as carriers for the peptide compositions.

- 5 They are widely suitable as both water- and lipid-soluble substances can be entrapped, *i.e.* in the aqueous spaces and within the bilayer itself, respectively. It is possible that the drug-bearing liposomes may even be employed for site-specific delivery of active agents by selectively modifying the liposomal formulation.

- 10 In addition to the teachings of Couvreur *et al.* (1977; 1988), the following information may be utilized in generating liposomal formulations. Phospholipids can form a variety of structures other than liposomes when dispersed in water, depending on the molar ratio of lipid to water. At low ratios the liposome is the preferred structure. The physical characteristics of liposomes depend on pH, ionic strength and the presence of divalent cations. Liposomes can show low permeability to ionic and polar substances, but
- 15 at elevated temperatures undergo a phase transition which markedly alters their permeability. The phase transition involves a change from a closely packed, ordered structure, known as the gel state, to a loosely packed, less-ordered structure, known as the fluid state. This occurs at a characteristic phase-transition temperature and results in an increase in permeability to ions, sugars and drugs.

- 20 In addition to temperature, exposure to proteins can alter the permeability of liposomes. Certain soluble proteins, such as cytochrome c, bind, deform and penetrate the bilayer, thereby causing changes in permeability. Cholesterol inhibits this penetration of proteins, apparently by packing the phospholipids more tightly. It is contemplated that the most useful liposome formations for antibiotic and inhibitor delivery will contain
- 25 cholesterol.

The ability to trap solutes varies between different types of liposomes. For example, MLVs are moderately efficient at trapping solutes, but SUVs are extremely inefficient. SUVs offer the advantage of homogeneity and reproducibility in size distribution, however, and a compromise between size and trapping efficiency is offered by

large unilamellar vesicles (LUVs). These are prepared by ether evaporation and are three to four times more efficient at solute entrapment than MLVs.

In addition to liposome characteristics, an important determinant in entrapping compounds is the physicochemical properties of the compound itself. Polar compounds are trapped in the aqueous spaces and nonpolar compounds bind to the lipid bilayer of the vesicle. Polar compounds are released through permeation or when the bilayer is broken, but nonpolar compounds remain affiliated with the bilayer unless it is disrupted by temperature or exposure to lipoproteins. Both types show maximum efflux rates at the phase transition temperature.

Liposomes interact with cells *via* four different mechanisms: endocytosis by phagocytic cells of the reticuloendothelial system such as macrophages and neutrophils; adsorption to the cell surface, either by nonspecific weak hydrophobic or electrostatic forces, or by specific interactions with cell-surface components; fusion with the plasma cell membrane by insertion of the lipid bilayer of the liposome into the plasma membrane, with simultaneous release of liposomal contents into the cytoplasm; and by transfer of liposomal lipids to cellular or subcellular membranes, or vice versa, without any association of the liposome contents. It often is difficult to determine which mechanism is operative and more than one may operate at the same time.

The fate and disposition of intravenously injected liposomes depend on their physical properties, such as size, fluidity, and surface charge. They may persist in tissues for h or days, depending on their composition, and half lives in the blood range from min to several h. Larger liposomes, such as MLVs and LUVs, are taken up rapidly by phagocytic cells of the reticuloendothelial system, but physiology of the circulatory system restrains the exit of such large species at most sites. They can exit only in places where large openings or pores exist in the capillary endothelium, such as the sinusoids of the liver or spleen. Thus, these organs are the predominate site of uptake. On the other hand, SUVs show a broader tissue distribution but still are sequestered highly in the liver and spleen. In general, this *in vivo* behavior limits the potential targeting of liposomes to only those

organs and tissues accessible to their large size. These include the blood, liver, spleen, bone marrow, and lymphoid organs.

Targeting is generally not a limitation in terms of the present invention. However, should specific targeting be desired, methods are available for this to be accomplished. Antibodies may be used to bind to the liposome surface and to direct the antibody and its drug contents to specific antigenic receptors located on a particular cell-type surface. Carbohydrate determinants (glycoprotein or glycolipid cell-surface components that play a role in cell-cell recognition, interaction and adhesion) may also be used as recognition sites as they have potential in directing liposomes to particular cell types. Mostly, it is contemplated that intravenous injection of liposomal preparations would be used, but other routes of administration are also conceivable.

Alternatively, the invention provides for pharmaceutically-acceptable nanocapsule formulations of the compositions of the present invention. Nanocapsules can generally entrap compounds in a stable and reproducible way (Henry-Michelland *et al.*, 1987; Quintanar-Guerrero *et al.*, 1998; Douglas *et al.*, 1987). To avoid side effects due to intracellular polymeric overloading, such ultrafine particles (sized around 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$ ) should be designed using polymers able to be degraded *in vivo*. Biodegradable polyalkylcyanoacrylate nanoparticles that meet these requirements are contemplated for use in the present invention. Such particles may be easily made, as described (Couvreux *et al.*, 1980; 1988; zur Muhlen *et al.*, 1998; Zambaux *et al.* 1998; Pinto-Alphandry *et al.*, 1995 and U. S. Patent 5,145,684, specifically incorporated herein by reference in its entirety).

## VACCINES

In certain preferred embodiments of the present invention, vaccines are provided. The vaccines will generally comprise one or more pharmaceutical compositions, such as those discussed above, in combination with an immunostimulant. An immunostimulant may be any substance that enhances or potentiates an immune response (antibody and/or cell-mediated) to an exogenous antigen. Examples of immunostimulants include adjuvants, biodegradable microspheres (*e.g.*, polylactic galactide) and liposomes

(into which the compound is incorporated; *see e.g.*, Fullerton, U.S. Patent No. 4,235,877). Vaccine preparation is generally described in, for example, M.F. Powell and M.J. Newman, eds., "Vaccine Design (the subunit and adjuvant approach)," Plenum Press (NY, 1995). Pharmaceutical compositions and vaccines within the scope of the present invention may  
 5 also contain other compounds, which may be biologically active or inactive. For example, one or more immunogenic portions of other tumor antigens may be present, either incorporated into a fusion polypeptide or as a separate compound, within the composition or vaccine.

Illustrative vaccines may contain DNA encoding one or more of the  
 10 polypeptides as described above, such that the polypeptide is generated *in situ*. As noted above, the DNA may be present within any of a variety of delivery systems known to those of ordinary skill in the art, including nucleic acid expression systems, bacteria and viral expression systems. Numerous gene delivery techniques are well known in the art, such as those described by Rolland, *Crit. Rev. Therap. Drug Carrier Systems* 15:143-198, 1998,  
 15 and references cited therein. Appropriate nucleic acid expression systems contain the necessary DNA sequences for expression in the patient (such as a suitable promoter and terminating signal). Bacterial delivery systems involve the administration of a bacterium (such as *Bacillus-Calmette-Guerrin*) that expresses an immunogenic portion of the polypeptide on its cell surface or secretes such an epitope. In a preferred embodiment, the  
 20 DNA may be introduced using a viral expression system (*e.g.*, vaccinia or other pox virus, retrovirus, or adenovirus), which may involve the use of a non-pathogenic (defective), replication competent virus. Suitable systems are disclosed, for example, in Fisher-Hoch *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 86:317-321, 1989; Flexner *et al.*, *Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci.* 569:86-103, 1989; Flexner *et al.*, *Vaccine* 8:17-21, 1990; U.S. Patent Nos. 4,603,112,  
 25 4,769,330, and 5,017,487; WO 89/01973; U.S. Patent No. 4,777,127; GB 2,200,651; EP 0,345,242; WO 91/02805; Berkner, *Biotechniques* 6:616-627, 1988; Rosenfeld *et al.*, *Science* 252:431-434, 1991; Kolls *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 91:215-219, 1994; Kass-Eisler *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 90:11498-11502, 1993; Guzman *et al.*, *Circulation* 88:2838-2848, 1993; and Guzman *et al.*, *Cir. Res.* 73:1202-1207, 1993.

Techniques for incorporating DNA into such expression systems are well known to those of ordinary skill in the art. The DNA may also be "naked," as described, for example, in Ulmer *et al.*, *Science* 259:1745-1749, 1993 and reviewed by Cohen, *Science* 259:1691-1692, 1993. The uptake of naked DNA may be increased by coating the DNA onto  
 5 biodegradable beads, which are efficiently transported into the cells. It will be apparent that a vaccine may comprise both a polynucleotide and a polypeptide component. Such vaccines may provide for an enhanced immune response.

It will be apparent that a vaccine may contain pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the polynucleotides and polypeptides provided herein. Such salts may be prepared  
 10 from pharmaceutically acceptable non-toxic bases, including organic bases (*e.g.*, salts of primary, secondary and tertiary amines and basic amino acids) and inorganic bases (*e.g.*, sodium, potassium, lithium, ammonium, calcium and magnesium salts).

While any suitable carrier known to those of ordinary skill in the art may be employed in the vaccine compositions of this invention, the type of carrier will vary  
 15 depending on the mode of administration. Compositions of the present invention may be formulated for any appropriate manner of administration, including for example, topical, oral, nasal, intravenous, intracranial, intraperitoneal, subcutaneous or intramuscular administration. For parenteral administration, such as subcutaneous injection, the carrier preferably comprises water, saline, alcohol, a fat, a wax or a buffer. For oral  
 20 administration, any of the above carriers or a solid carrier, such as mannitol, lactose, starch, magnesium stearate, sodium saccharine, talcum, cellulose, glucose, sucrose, and magnesium carbonate, may be employed. Biodegradable microspheres (*e.g.*, polylactate polyglycolate) may also be employed as carriers for the pharmaceutical compositions of this invention. Suitable biodegradable microspheres are disclosed, for example, in U.S.  
 25 Patent Nos. 4,897,268; 5,075,109; 5,928,647; 5,811,128; 5,820,883; 5,853,763; 5,814,344 and 5,942,252. One may also employ a carrier comprising the particulate-protein complexes described in U.S. Patent No. 5,928,647, which are capable of inducing a class I-restricted cytotoxic T lymphocyte responses in a host.

Such compositions may also comprise buffers (e.g., neutral buffered saline or phosphate buffered saline), carbohydrates (e.g., glucose, mannose, sucrose or dextrans), mannitol, proteins, polypeptides or amino acids such as glycine, antioxidants, bacteriostats, chelating agents such as EDTA or glutathione, adjuvants (e.g., aluminum hydroxide),  
 5 solutes that render the formulation isotonic, hypotonic or weakly hypertonic with the blood of a recipient, suspending agents, thickening agents and/or preservatives. Alternatively, compositions of the present invention may be formulated as a lyophilizate. Compounds may also be encapsulated within liposomes using well known technology.

Any of a variety of immunostimulants may be employed in the vaccines of  
 10 this invention. For example, an adjuvant may be included. Most adjuvants contain a substance designed to protect the antigen from rapid catabolism, such as aluminum hydroxide or mineral oil, and a stimulator of immune responses, such as lipid A, *Bordetella pertussis* or *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* derived proteins. Suitable adjuvants are commercially available as, for example, Freund's Incomplete Adjuvant and Complete  
 15 Adjuvant (Difco Laboratories, Detroit, MI); Merck Adjuvant 65 (Merck and Company, Inc., Rahway, NJ); AS-2 (SmithKline Beecham, Philadelphia, PA); aluminum salts such as aluminum hydroxide gel (alum) or aluminum phosphate; salts of calcium, iron or zinc; an insoluble suspension of acylated tyrosine; acylated sugars; cationically or anionically derivatized polysaccharides; polyphosphazenes; biodegradable microspheres;  
 20 monophosphoryl lipid A and quil A. Cytokines, such as GM-CSF or interleukin-2, -7, or -12, may also be used as adjuvants.

Within the vaccines provided herein, the adjuvant composition is preferably designed to induce an immune response predominantly of the Th1 type. High levels of Th1-type cytokines (e.g., IFN- $\gamma$ , TNF $\alpha$ , IL-2 and IL-12) tend to favor the induction of cell  
 25 mediated immune responses to an administered antigen. In contrast, high levels of Th2-type cytokines (e.g., IL-4, IL-5, IL-6 and IL-10) tend to favor the induction of humoral immune responses. Following application of a vaccine as provided herein, a patient will support an immune response that includes Th1- and Th2-type responses. Within a preferred embodiment, in which a response is predominantly Th1-type, the level of Th1-

type cytokines will increase to a greater extent than the level of Th2-type cytokines. The levels of these cytokines may be readily assessed using standard assays. For a review of the families of cytokines, see Mosmann and Coffman, *Ann. Rev. Immunol.* 7:145-173, 1989.

5 Preferred adjuvants for use in eliciting a predominantly Th1-type response include, for example, a combination of monophosphoryl lipid A, preferably 3-de-O-acylated monophosphoryl lipid A (3D-MPL), together with an aluminum salt. MPL adjuvants are available from Corixa Corporation (Seattle, WA; *see* US Patent Nos. 4,436,727; 4,877,611; 4,866,034 and 4,912,094). CpG-containing oligonucleotides (in  
10 which the CpG dinucleotide is unmethylated) also induce a predominantly Th1 response. Such oligonucleotides are well known and are described, for example, in WO 96/02555, WO 99/33488 and U.S. Patent Nos. 6,008,200 and 5,856,462. Immunostimulatory DNA sequences are also described, for example, by Sato *et al.*, *Science* 273:352, 1996. Another preferred adjuvant is a saponin, preferably QS21 (Aquila Biopharmaceuticals Inc.,  
15 Framingham, MA), which may be used alone or in combination with other adjuvants. For example, an enhanced system involves the combination of a monophosphoryl lipid A and saponin derivative, such as the combination of QS21 and 3D-MPL as described in WO 94/00153, or a less reactogenic composition where the QS21 is quenched with cholesterol, as described in WO 96/33739. Other preferred formulations comprise an oil-in-water  
20 emulsion and tocopherol. A particularly potent adjuvant formulation involving QS21, 3D-MPL and tocopherol in an oil-in-water emulsion is described in WO 95/17210.

Other preferred adjuvants include Montanide ISA 720 (Seppic, France), SAF (Chiron, California, United States), ISCOMS (CSL), MF-59 (Chiron), the SBAS series of adjuvants (*e.g.*, SBAS-2 or SBAS-4, available from SmithKline Beecham,  
25 Rixensart, Belgium), Detox (Corixa, Hamilton, MT), RC-529 (Corixa, Hamilton, MT) and other aminoalkyl glucosaminide 4-phosphates (AGPs), such as those described in pending U.S. Patent Application Serial Nos. 08/853,826 and 09/074,720, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.



Any vaccine provided herein may be prepared using well known methods that result in a combination of antigen, immune response enhancer and a suitable carrier or excipient. The compositions described herein may be administered as part of a sustained release formulation (*i.e.*, a formulation such as a capsule, sponge or gel (composed of polysaccharides, for example) that effects a slow release of compound following administration). Such formulations may generally be prepared using well known technology (*see, e.g.*, Coombes *et al.*, *Vaccine* 14:1429-1438, 1996) and administered by, for example, oral, rectal or subcutaneous implantation, or by implantation at the desired target site. Sustained-release formulations may contain a polypeptide, polynucleotide or antibody dispersed in a carrier matrix and/or contained within a reservoir surrounded by a rate controlling membrane.

Carriers for use within such formulations are biocompatible, and may also be biodegradable; preferably the formulation provides a relatively constant level of active component release. Such carriers include microparticles of poly(lactide-co-glycolide), polyacrylate, latex, starch, cellulose, dextran and the like. Other delayed-release carriers include supramolecular biovectors, which comprise a non-liquid hydrophilic core (*e.g.*, a cross-linked polysaccharide or oligosaccharide) and, optionally, an external layer comprising an amphiphilic compound, such as a phospholipid (*see e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,151,254 and PCT applications WO 94/20078, WO/94/23701 and WO 96/06638). The amount of active compound contained within a sustained release formulation depends upon the site of implantation, the rate and expected duration of release and the nature of the condition to be treated or prevented.

Any of a variety of delivery vehicles may be employed within pharmaceutical compositions and vaccines to facilitate production of an antigen-specific immune response that targets tumor cells. Delivery vehicles include antigen presenting cells (APCs), such as dendritic cells, macrophages, B cells, monocytes and other cells that may be engineered to be efficient APCs. Such cells may, but need not, be genetically modified to increase the capacity for presenting the antigen, to improve activation and/or maintenance of the T cell response, to have anti-tumor effects *per se* and/or to be

immunologically compatible with the receiver (*i.e.*, matched HLA haplotype). APCs may generally be isolated from any of a variety of biological fluids and organs, including tumor and peritumoral tissues, and may be autologous, allogeneic, syngeneic or xenogeneic cells.

Certain preferred embodiments of the present invention use dendritic cells or progenitors thereof as antigen-presenting cells. Dendritic cells are highly potent APCs (Banchereau and Steinman, *Nature* 392:245-251, 1998) and have been shown to be effective as a physiological adjuvant for eliciting prophylactic or therapeutic antitumor immunity (*see* Timmerman and Levy, *Ann. Rev. Med.* 50:507-529, 1999). In general, dendritic cells may be identified based on their typical shape (stellate *in situ*, with marked cytoplasmic processes (dendrites) visible *in vitro*), their ability to take up, process and present antigens with high efficiency and their ability to activate naïve T cell responses. Dendritic cells may, of course, be engineered to express specific cell-surface receptors or ligands that are not commonly found on dendritic cells *in vivo* or *ex vivo*, and such modified dendritic cells are contemplated by the present invention. As an alternative to dendritic cells, secreted vesicles antigen-loaded dendritic cells (called exosomes) may be used within a vaccine (*see* Zitvogel *et al.*, *Nature Med.* 4:594-600, 1998).

Dendritic cells and progenitors may be obtained from peripheral blood, bone marrow, tumor-infiltrating cells, peritumoral tissues-infiltrating cells, lymph nodes, spleen, skin, umbilical cord blood or any other suitable tissue or fluid. For example, dendritic cells may be differentiated *ex vivo* by adding a combination of cytokines such as GM-CSF, IL-4, IL-13 and/or TNF $\alpha$  to cultures of monocytes harvested from peripheral blood. Alternatively, CD34 positive cells harvested from peripheral blood, umbilical cord blood or bone marrow may be differentiated into dendritic cells by adding to the culture medium combinations of GM-CSF, IL-3, TNF $\alpha$ , CD40 ligand, LPS, flt3 ligand and/or other compound(s) that induce differentiation, maturation and proliferation of dendritic cells.

Dendritic cells are conveniently categorized as "immature" and "mature" cells, which allows a simple way to discriminate between two well characterized phenotypes. However, this nomenclature should not be construed to exclude all possible intermediate stages of differentiation. Immature dendritic cells are characterized as APC

with a high capacity for antigen uptake and processing, which correlates with the high expression of Fcγ receptor and mannose receptor. The mature phenotype is typically characterized by a lower expression of these markers, but a high expression of cell surface molecules responsible for T cell activation such as class I and class II MHC, adhesion molecules (*e.g.*, CD54 and CD11) and costimulatory molecules (*e.g.*, CD40, CD80, CD86 and 4-1BB).

APCs may generally be transfected with a polynucleotide encoding a lung tumor protein (or portion or other variant thereof) such that the lung tumor polypeptide, or an immunogenic portion thereof, is expressed on the cell surface. Such transfection may take place *ex vivo*, and a composition or vaccine comprising such transfected cells may then be used for therapeutic purposes, as described herein. Alternatively, a gene delivery vehicle that targets a dendritic or other antigen presenting cell may be administered to a patient, resulting in transfection that occurs *in vivo*. *In vivo* and *ex vivo* transfection of dendritic cells, for example, may generally be performed using any methods known in the art, such as those described in WO 97/24447, or the gene gun approach described by Mahvi *et al.*, *Immunology and cell Biology* 75:456-460, 1997. Antigen loading of dendritic cells may be achieved by incubating dendritic cells or progenitor cells with the lung tumor polypeptide, DNA (naked or within a plasmid vector) or RNA; or with antigen-expressing recombinant bacterium or viruses (*e.g.*, vaccinia, fowlpox, adenovirus or lentivirus vectors). Prior to loading, the polypeptide may be covalently conjugated to an immunological partner that provides T cell help (*e.g.*, a carrier molecule). Alternatively, a dendritic cell may be pulsed with a non-conjugated immunological partner, separately or in the presence of the polypeptide.

Vaccines and pharmaceutical compositions may be presented in unit-dose or multi-dose containers, such as sealed ampoules or vials. Such containers are preferably hermetically sealed to preserve sterility of the formulation until use. In general, formulations may be stored as suspensions, solutions or emulsions in oily or aqueous vehicles. Alternatively, a vaccine or pharmaceutical composition may be stored in a

freeze-dried condition requiring only the addition of a sterile liquid carrier immediately prior to use.

## CANCER THERAPY

In further aspects of the present invention, the compositions described  
 5 herein may be used for immunotherapy of cancer, such as lung cancer. Within such  
 methods, pharmaceutical compositions and vaccines are typically administered to a patient.  
 As used herein, a "patient" refers to any warm-blooded animal, preferably a human. A  
 patient may or may not be afflicted with cancer. Accordingly, the above pharmaceutical  
 compositions and vaccines may be used to prevent the development of a cancer or to treat a  
 10 patient afflicted with a cancer. A cancer may be diagnosed using criteria generally  
 accepted in the art, including the presence of a malignant tumor. Pharmaceutical  
 compositions and vaccines may be administered either prior to or following surgical  
 removal of primary tumors and/or treatment such as administration of radiotherapy or  
 conventional chemotherapeutic drugs. Administration may be by any suitable method,  
 15 including administration by intravenous, intraperitoneal, intramuscular, subcutaneous,  
 intranasal, intradermal, anal, vaginal, topical and oral routes.

Within certain embodiments, immunotherapy may be active  
 immunotherapy, in which treatment relies on the *in vivo* stimulation of the endogenous host  
 immune system to react against tumors with the administration of immune response-  
 20 modifying agents (such as polypeptides and polynucleotides as provided herein).

Within other embodiments, immunotherapy may be passive  
 immunotherapy, in which treatment involves the delivery of agents with established tumor-  
 immune reactivity (such as effector cells or antibodies) that can directly or indirectly  
 mediate antitumor effects and does not necessarily depend on an intact host immune  
 25 system. Examples of effector cells include T cells as discussed above, T lymphocytes  
 (such as CD8<sup>+</sup> cytotoxic T lymphocytes and CD4<sup>+</sup> T-helper tumor-infiltrating  
 lymphocytes), killer cells (such as Natural Killer cells and lymphokine-activated killer  
 cells), B cells and antigen-presenting cells (such as dendritic cells and macrophages)

expressing a polypeptide provided herein. T cell receptors and antibody receptors specific for the polypeptides recited herein may be cloned, expressed and transferred into other vectors or effector cells for adoptive immunotherapy. The polypeptides provided herein may also be used to generate antibodies or anti-idiotypic antibodies (as described above and in U.S. Patent No. 4,918,164) for passive immunotherapy.

Effector cells may generally be obtained in sufficient quantities for adoptive immunotherapy by growth *in vitro*, as described herein. Culture conditions for expanding single antigen-specific effector cells to several billion in number with retention of antigen recognition *in vivo* are well known in the art. Such *in vitro* culture conditions typically use intermittent stimulation with antigen, often in the presence of cytokines (such as IL-2) and non-dividing feeder cells. As noted above, immunoreactive polypeptides as provided herein may be used to rapidly expand antigen-specific T cell cultures in order to generate a sufficient number of cells for immunotherapy. In particular, antigen-presenting cells, such as dendritic, macrophage, monocyte, fibroblast and/or B cells, may be pulsed with immunoreactive polypeptides or transfected with one or more polynucleotides using standard techniques well known in the art. For example, antigen-presenting cells can be transfected with a polynucleotide having a promoter appropriate for increasing expression in a recombinant virus or other expression system. Cultured effector cells for use in therapy must be able to grow and distribute widely, and to survive long term *in vivo*. Studies have shown that cultured effector cells can be induced to grow *in vivo* and to survive long term in substantial numbers by repeated stimulation with antigen supplemented with IL-2 (*see, for example, Cheever et al., Immunological Reviews 157:177, 1997*).

Alternatively, a vector expressing a polypeptide recited herein may be introduced into antigen presenting cells taken from a patient and clonally propagated *ex vivo* for transplant back into the same patient. Transfected cells may be reintroduced into the patient using any means known in the art, preferably in sterile form by intravenous, intracavitary, intraperitoneal or intratumor administration.

Routes and frequency of administration of the therapeutic compositions described herein, as well as dosage, will vary from individual to individual, and may be readily established using standard techniques. In general, the pharmaceutical compositions and vaccines may be administered by injection (*e.g.*, intracutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous or subcutaneous), intranasally (*e.g.*, by aspiration) or orally. Preferably, between 1 and 10 doses may be administered over a 52 week period. Preferably, 6 doses are administered, at intervals of 1 month, and booster vaccinations may be given periodically thereafter. Alternate protocols may be appropriate for individual patients. A suitable dose is an amount of a compound that, when administered as described above, is capable of promoting an anti-tumor immune response, and is at least 10-50% above the basal (*i.e.*, untreated) level. Such response can be monitored by measuring the anti-tumor antibodies in a patient or by vaccine-dependent generation of cytolytic effector cells capable of killing the patient's tumor cells *in vitro*. Such vaccines should also be capable of causing an immune response that leads to an improved clinical outcome (*e.g.*, more frequent remissions, complete or partial or longer disease-free survival) in vaccinated patients as compared to non-vaccinated patients. In general, for pharmaceutical compositions and vaccines comprising one or more polypeptides, the amount of each polypeptide present in a dose ranges from about 25  $\mu$ g to 5 mg per kg of host. Suitable dose sizes will vary with the size of the patient, but will typically range from about 0.1 mL to about 5 mL.

In general, an appropriate dosage and treatment regimen provides the active compound(s) in an amount sufficient to provide therapeutic and/or prophylactic benefit. Such a response can be monitored by establishing an improved clinical outcome (*e.g.*, more frequent remissions, complete or partial, or longer disease-free survival) in treated patients as compared to non-treated patients. Increases in preexisting immune responses to a lung tumor protein generally correlate with an improved clinical outcome. Such immune responses may generally be evaluated using standard proliferation, cytotoxicity or cytokine assays, which may be performed using samples obtained from a patient before and after treatment.

## CANCER DETECTION AND DIAGNOSIS

In general, a cancer may be detected in a patient based on the presence of one or more lung tumor proteins and/or polynucleotides encoding such proteins in a biological sample (for example, blood, sera, sputum urine and/or tumor biopsies) obtained from the patient. In other words, such proteins may be used as markers to indicate the presence or absence of a cancer such as lung cancer. In addition, such proteins may be useful for the detection of other cancers. The binding agents provided herein generally permit detection of the level of antigen that binds to the agent in the biological sample. Polynucleotide primers and probes may be used to detect the level of mRNA encoding a tumor protein, which is also indicative of the presence or absence of a cancer. In general, a lung tumor sequence should be present at a level that is at least three fold higher in tumor tissue than in normal tissue

There are a variety of assay formats known to those of ordinary skill in the art for using a binding agent to detect polypeptide markers in a sample. See, e.g., Harlow and Lane, *Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1988. In general, the presence or absence of a cancer in a patient may be determined by (a) contacting a biological sample obtained from a patient with a binding agent; (b) detecting in the sample a level of polypeptide that binds to the binding agent; and (c) comparing the level of polypeptide with a predetermined cut-off value.

In a preferred embodiment, the assay involves the use of binding agent immobilized on a solid support to bind to and remove the polypeptide from the remainder of the sample. The bound polypeptide may then be detected using a detection reagent that contains a reporter group and specifically binds to the binding agent/polypeptide complex. Such detection reagents may comprise, for example, a binding agent that specifically binds to the polypeptide or an antibody or other agent that specifically binds to the binding agent, such as an anti-immunoglobulin, protein G, protein A or a lectin. Alternatively, a competitive assay may be utilized, in which a polypeptide is labeled with a reporter group and allowed to bind to the immobilized binding agent after incubation of the binding agent with the sample. The extent to which components of the sample inhibit the binding of the

labeled polypeptide to the binding agent is indicative of the reactivity of the sample with the immobilized binding agent. Suitable polypeptides for use within such assays include full length lung tumor proteins and portions thereof to which the binding agent binds, as described above.

5           The solid support may be any material known to those of ordinary skill in the art to which the tumor protein may be attached. For example, the solid support may be a test well in a microtiter plate or a nitrocellulose or other suitable membrane. Alternatively, the support may be a bead or disc, such as glass, fiberglass, latex or a plastic material such as polystyrene or polyvinylchloride. The support may also be a magnetic  
10 particle or a fiber optic sensor, such as those disclosed, for example, in U.S. Patent No. 5,359,681. The binding agent may be immobilized on the solid support using a variety of techniques known to those of skill in the art, which are amply described in the patent and scientific literature. In the context of the present invention, the term "immobilization" refers to both noncovalent association, such as adsorption, and covalent attachment (which  
15 may be a direct linkage between the agent and functional groups on the support or may be a linkage by way of a cross-linking agent). Immobilization by adsorption to a well in a microtiter plate or to a membrane is preferred. In such cases, adsorption may be achieved by contacting the binding agent, in a suitable buffer, with the solid support for a suitable amount of time. The contact time varies with temperature, but is typically between about 1  
20 hour and about 1 day. In general, contacting a well of a plastic microtiter plate (such as polystyrene or polyvinylchloride) with an amount of binding agent ranging from about 10 ng to about 10  $\mu$ g, and preferably about 100 ng to about 1  $\mu$ g, is sufficient to immobilize an adequate amount of binding agent.

Covalent attachment of binding agent to a solid support may generally be  
25 achieved by first reacting the support with a bifunctional reagent that will react with both the support and a functional group, such as a hydroxyl or amino group, on the binding agent. For example, the binding agent may be covalently attached to supports having an appropriate polymer coating using benzoquinone or by condensation of an aldehyde group



on the support with an amine and an active hydrogen on the binding partner (*see, e.g.,* Pierce Immunotechnology Catalog and Handbook, 1991, at A12-A13).

In certain embodiments, the assay is a two-antibody sandwich assay. This assay may be performed by first contacting an antibody that has been immobilized on a solid support, commonly the well of a microtiter plate, with the sample, such that polypeptides within the sample are allowed to bind to the immobilized antibody. Unbound sample is then removed from the immobilized polypeptide-antibody complexes and a detection reagent (preferably a second antibody capable of binding to a different site on the polypeptide) containing a reporter group is added. The amount of detection reagent that remains bound to the solid support is then determined using a method appropriate for the specific reporter group.

More specifically, once the antibody is immobilized on the support as described above, the remaining protein binding sites on the support are typically blocked. Any suitable blocking agent known to those of ordinary skill in the art, such as bovine serum albumin or Tween 20™ (Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO). The immobilized antibody is then incubated with the sample, and polypeptide is allowed to bind to the antibody. The sample may be diluted with a suitable diluent, such as phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) prior to incubation. In general, an appropriate contact time (*i.e.,* incubation time) is a period of time that is sufficient to detect the presence of polypeptide within a sample obtained from an individual with lung cancer. Preferably, the contact time is sufficient to achieve a level of binding that is at least about 95% of that achieved at equilibrium between bound and unbound polypeptide. Those of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that the time necessary to achieve equilibrium may be readily determined by assaying the level of binding that occurs over a period of time. At room temperature, an incubation time of about 30 minutes is generally sufficient.

Unbound sample may then be removed by washing the solid support with an appropriate buffer, such as PBS containing 0.1% Tween 20™. The second antibody, which contains a reporter group, may then be added to the solid support. Preferred reporter groups include those groups recited above.

The detection reagent is then incubated with the immobilized antibody-polypeptide complex for an amount of time sufficient to detect the bound polypeptide. An appropriate amount of time may generally be determined by assaying the level of binding that occurs over a period of time. Unbound detection reagent is then removed and bound  
 5 detection reagent is detected using the reporter group. The method employed for detecting the reporter group depends upon the nature of the reporter group. For radioactive groups, scintillation counting or autoradiographic methods are generally appropriate. Spectroscopic methods may be used to detect dyes, luminescent groups and fluorescent groups. Biotin may be detected using avidin, coupled to a different reporter group  
 10 (commonly a radioactive or fluorescent group or an enzyme). Enzyme reporter groups may generally be detected by the addition of substrate (generally for a specific period of time), followed by spectroscopic or other analysis of the reaction products.

To determine the presence or absence of a cancer, such as lung cancer, the signal detected from the reporter group that remains bound to the solid support is generally  
 15 compared to a signal that corresponds to a predetermined cut-off value. In one preferred embodiment, the cut-off value for the detection of a cancer is the average mean signal obtained when the immobilized antibody is incubated with samples from patients without the cancer. In general, a sample generating a signal that is three standard deviations above the predetermined cut-off value is considered positive for the cancer. In an alternate  
 20 preferred embodiment, the cut-off value is determined using a Receiver Operator Curve, according to the method of Sackett *et al.*, *Clinical Epidemiology: A Basic Science for Clinical Medicine*, Little Brown and Co., 1985, p. 106-7. Briefly, in this embodiment, the cut-off value may be determined from a plot of pairs of true positive rates (*i.e.*, sensitivity) and false positive rates (100%-specificity) that correspond to each possible cut-off value  
 25 for the diagnostic test result. The cut-off value on the plot that is the closest to the upper left-hand corner (*i.e.*, the value that encloses the largest area) is the most accurate cut-off value, and a sample generating a signal that is higher than the cut-off value determined by this method may be considered positive. Alternatively, the cut-off value may be shifted to the left along the plot, to minimize the false positive rate, or to the right, to minimize the

false negative rate. In general, a sample generating a signal that is higher than the cut-off value determined by this method is considered positive for a cancer.

In a related embodiment, the assay is performed in a flow-through or strip test format, wherein the binding agent is immobilized on a membrane, such as nitrocellulose. In the flow-through test, polypeptides within the sample bind to the immobilized binding agent as the sample passes through the membrane. A second, labeled binding agent then binds to the binding agent-polypeptide complex as a solution containing the second binding agent flows through the membrane. The detection of bound second binding agent may then be performed as described above. In the strip test format, one end of the membrane to which binding agent is bound is immersed in a solution containing the sample. The sample migrates along the membrane through a region containing second binding agent and to the area of immobilized binding agent. Concentration of second binding agent at the area of immobilized antibody indicates the presence of a cancer. Typically, the concentration of second binding agent at that site generates a pattern, such as a line, that can be read visually. The absence of such a pattern indicates a negative result. In general, the amount of binding agent immobilized on the membrane is selected to generate a visually discernible pattern when the biological sample contains a level of polypeptide that would be sufficient to generate a positive signal in the two-antibody sandwich assay, in the format discussed above. Preferred binding agents for use in such assays are antibodies and antigen-binding fragments thereof. Preferably, the amount of antibody immobilized on the membrane ranges from about 25 ng to about 1 $\mu$ g, and more preferably from about 50 ng to about 500 ng. Such tests can typically be performed with a very small amount of biological sample.

Of course, numerous other assay protocols exist that are suitable for use with the tumor proteins or binding agents of the present invention. The above descriptions are intended to be exemplary only. For example, it will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that the above protocols may be readily modified to use lung tumor polypeptides to detect antibodies that bind to such polypeptides in a biological sample.

The detection of such lung tumor protein specific antibodies may correlate with the presence of a cancer.

A cancer may also, or alternatively, be detected based on the presence of T cells that specifically react with a lung tumor protein in a biological sample. Within certain methods, a biological sample comprising CD4<sup>+</sup> and/or CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells isolated from a patient is incubated with a lung tumor polypeptide, a polynucleotide encoding such a polypeptide and/or an APC that expresses at least an immunogenic portion of such a polypeptide, and the presence or absence of specific activation of the T cells is detected. Suitable biological samples include, but are not limited to, isolated T cells. For example, T cells may be isolated from a patient by routine techniques (such as by Ficoll/Hypaque density gradient centrifugation of peripheral blood lymphocytes). T cells may be incubated *in vitro* for 2-9 days (typically 4 days) at 37°C with polypeptide (*e.g.*, 5 - 25 µg/ml). It may be desirable to incubate another aliquot of a T cell sample in the absence of lung tumor polypeptide to serve as a control. For CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells, activation is preferably detected by evaluating proliferation of the T cells. For CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells, activation is preferably detected by evaluating cytolytic activity. A level of proliferation that is at least two fold greater and/or a level of cytolytic activity that is at least 20% greater than in disease-free patients indicates the presence of a cancer in the patient.

As noted above, a cancer may also, or alternatively, be detected based on the level of mRNA encoding a lung tumor protein in a biological sample. For example, at least two oligonucleotide primers may be employed in a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) based assay to amplify a portion of a lung tumor cDNA derived from a biological sample, wherein at least one of the oligonucleotide primers is specific for (*i.e.*, hybridizes to) a polynucleotide encoding the lung tumor protein. The amplified cDNA is then separated and detected using techniques well known in the art, such as gel electrophoresis. Similarly, oligonucleotide probes that specifically hybridize to a polynucleotide encoding a lung tumor protein may be used in a hybridization assay to detect the presence of polynucleotide encoding the tumor protein in a biological sample.

To permit hybridization under assay conditions, oligonucleotide primers and probes should comprise an oligonucleotide sequence that has at least about 60%, preferably at least about 75% and more preferably at least about 90%, identity to a portion of a polynucleotide encoding a lung tumor protein that is at least 10 nucleotides, and preferably at least 20 nucleotides, in length. Preferably, oligonucleotide primers and/or probes hybridize to a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide described herein under moderately stringent conditions, as defined above. Oligonucleotide primers and/or probes which may be usefully employed in the diagnostic methods described herein preferably are at least 10-40 nucleotides in length. In a preferred embodiment, the oligonucleotide primers comprise at least 10 contiguous nucleotides, more preferably at least 15 contiguous nucleotides, of a DNA molecule having a sequence recited in SEQ ID NO:1-109, 111, 113, 115-151, 153, 154, 157, 158, 160, 162-164, 167, 168, 171, 173, 175, 177-224, 255-337, 345, 347 and 349. Techniques for both PCR based assays and hybridization assays are well known in the art (see, for example, Mullis *et al.*, *Cold Spring Harbor Symp. Quant. Biol.*, 51:263, 1987; Erlich ed., *PCR Technology*, Stockton Press, NY, 1989).

One preferred assay employs RT-PCR, in which PCR is applied in conjunction with reverse transcription. Typically, RNA is extracted from a biological sample, such as biopsy tissue, and is reverse transcribed to produce cDNA molecules. PCR amplification using at least one specific primer generates a cDNA molecule, which may be separated and visualized using, for example, gel electrophoresis. Amplification may be performed on biological samples taken from a test patient and from an individual who is not afflicted with a cancer. The amplification reaction may be performed on several dilutions of cDNA spanning two orders of magnitude. A two-fold or greater increase in expression in several dilutions of the test patient sample as compared to the same dilutions of the non-cancerous sample is typically considered positive.

In another embodiment, the compositions described herein may be used as markers for the progression of cancer. In this embodiment, assays as described above for the diagnosis of a cancer may be performed over time, and the change in the level of reactive polypeptide(s) or polynucleotide(s) evaluated. For example, the assays may be

performed every 24-72 hours for a period of 6 months to 1 year, and thereafter performed as needed. In general, a cancer is progressing in those patients in whom the level of polypeptide or polynucleotide detected increases over time. In contrast, the cancer is not progressing when the level of reactive polypeptide or polynucleotide either remains  
 5 constant or decreases with time.

Certain *in vivo* diagnostic assays may be performed directly on a tumor. One such assay involves contacting tumor cells with a binding agent. The bound binding agent may then be detected directly or indirectly via a reporter group. Such binding agents may also be used in histological applications. Alternatively, polynucleotide probes may be  
 10 used within such applications.

As noted above, to improve sensitivity, multiple lung tumor protein markers may be assayed within a given sample. It will be apparent that binding agents specific for different proteins provided herein may be combined within a single assay. Further, multiple primers or probes may be used concurrently. The selection of tumor protein  
 15 markers may be based on routine experiments to determine combinations that results in optimal sensitivity. In addition, or alternatively, assays for tumor proteins provided herein may be combined with assays for other known tumor antigens.

### DIAGNOSTIC KITS

The present invention further provides kits for use within any of the above  
 20 diagnostic methods. Such kits typically comprise two or more components necessary for performing a diagnostic assay. Components may be compounds, reagents, containers and/or equipment. For example, one container within a kit may contain a monoclonal antibody or fragment thereof that specifically binds to a lung tumor protein. Such antibodies or fragments may be provided attached to a support material, as described  
 25 above. One or more additional containers may enclose elements, such as reagents or buffers, to be used in the assay. Such kits may also, or alternatively, contain a detection reagent as described above that contains a reporter group suitable for direct or indirect detection of antibody binding.

Alternatively, a kit may be designed to detect the level of mRNA encoding a lung tumor protein in a biological sample. Such kits generally comprise at least one oligonucleotide probe or primer, as described above, that hybridizes to a polynucleotide encoding a lung tumor protein. Such an oligonucleotide may be used, for example, within  
5 a PCR or hybridization assay. Additional components that may be present within such kits include a second oligonucleotide and/or a diagnostic reagent or container to facilitate the detection of a polynucleotide encoding a lung tumor protein.

The following Examples are offered by way of illustration and not by way of limitation.

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## EXAMPLE

### EXAMPLE 1

#### ISOLATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF cDNA SEQUENCES ENCODING LUNG TUMOR POLYPEPTIDES

- 5                    This example illustrates the isolation of cDNA molecules encoding lung tumor-specific polypeptides from lung tumor cDNA libraries.

##### A.    ISOLATION OF CDNA SEQUENCES FROM A LUNG SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA LIBRARY

- A human lung squamous cell carcinoma cDNA expression library was
- 10   constructed from poly A<sup>+</sup> RNA from a pool of two patient tissues using a Superscript Plasmid System for cDNA Synthesis and Plasmid Cloning kit (BRL Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, MD) following the manufacturer's protocol. Specifically, lung carcinoma tissues were homogenized with polytron (Kinematica, Switzerland) and total RNA was extracted using Trizol reagent (BRL Life Technologies) as directed by the manufacturer.
- 15   The poly A<sup>+</sup> RNA was then purified using an oligo dT cellulose column as described in Sambrook et al., *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, 1989. First-strand cDNA was synthesized using the NotI/Oligo-dT18 primer. Double-stranded cDNA was synthesized, ligated with BstXI/EcoRI adaptors (Invitrogen, San Diego, CA) and digested with NotI. Following size
- 20   fractionation with cDNA size fractionation columns (BRL Life Technologies), the cDNA was ligated into the BstXI/NotI site of pcDNA3.1 (Invitrogen) and transformed into ElectroMax *E. coli* DH10B cells (BRL Life Technologies) by electroporation.

- Using the same procedure, a normal human lung cDNA expression library was prepared from a pool of four tissue specimens. The cDNA libraries were characterized
- 25   by determining the number of independent colonies, the percentage of clones that carried insert, the average insert size and by sequence analysis. The lung squamous cell carcinoma library contained  $2.7 \times 10^6$  independent colonies, with 100% of clones having an insert and



the average insert size being 2100 base pairs. The normal lung cDNA library contained  $1.4 \times 10^6$  independent colonies, with 90% of clones having inserts and the average insert size being 1800 base pairs. For both libraries, sequence analysis showed that the majority of clones had a full length cDNA sequence and were synthesized from mRNA

5 cDNA library subtraction was performed using the above lung squamous cell carcinoma and normal lung cDNA libraries, as described by Hara *et al.* (*Blood*, 84:189-199, 1994) with some modifications. Specifically, a lung squamous cell carcinoma-specific subtracted cDNA library was generated as follows. Normal tissue cDNA library (80  $\mu$ g) was digested with BamHI and XhoI, followed by a filling-in reaction  
10 with DNA polymerase Klenow fragment. After phenol-chloroform extraction and ethanol precipitation, the DNA was dissolved in 133  $\mu$ l of H<sub>2</sub>O, heat-denatured and mixed with 133  $\mu$ l (133  $\mu$ g) of Photoprobe biotin (Vector Laboratories, Burlingame, CA). As recommended by the manufacturer, the resulting mixture was irradiated with a 270 W. sunlamp on ice for 20 minutes. Additional Photoprobe biotin (67  $\mu$ l) was added and the  
15 biotinylation reaction was repeated. After extraction with butanol five times, the DNA was ethanol-precipitated and dissolved in 23  $\mu$ l H<sub>2</sub>O to form the driver DNA.

To form the tracer DNA, 10  $\mu$ g lung squamous cell carcinoma cDNA library was digested with NotI and SpeI, phenol chloroform extracted and passed through Chroma spin-400 columns (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA). Typically, 5  $\mu$ g of cDNA was recovered  
20 after the sizing column. Following ethanol precipitation, the tracer DNA was dissolved in 5  $\mu$ l H<sub>2</sub>O. Tracer DNA was mixed with 15  $\mu$ l driver DNA and 20  $\mu$ l of 2 x hybridization buffer (1.5 M NaCl/10 mM EDTA/50 mM HEPES pH 7.5/0.2% sodium dodecyl sulfate), overlaid with mineral oil, and heat-denatured completely. The sample was immediately transferred into a 68 °C water bath and incubated for 20 hours (long hybridization [LH]).  
25 The reaction mixture was then subjected to a streptavidin treatment followed by phenol/chloroform extraction. This process was repeated three more times. Subtracted DNA was precipitated, dissolved in 12  $\mu$ l H<sub>2</sub>O, mixed with 8  $\mu$ l driver DNA and 20  $\mu$ l of 2 x hybridization buffer, and subjected to a hybridization at 68 °C for 2 hours (short hybridization [SH]). After removal of biotinylated double-stranded DNA, subtracted

cDNA was ligated into NotI/SpeI site of chloramphenicol resistant pBCSK<sup>+</sup> (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA) and transformed into ElectroMax *E. coli* DH10B cells by electroporation to generate a lung squamous cell carcinoma specific subtracted cDNA library (herein after referred to as "lung subtraction I").

5           A second lung squamous cell carcinoma specific subtracted cDNA library (referred to as "lung subtraction II") was generated in a similar way to the lung subtraction library I, except that eight frequently recovered genes from lung subtraction I were included in the driver DNA, and 24,000 independent clones were recovered.

To analyze the subtracted cDNA libraries, plasmid DNA was prepared from  
 10 320 independent clones, randomly picked from the subtracted lung squamous cell carcinoma specific libraries. Representative cDNA clones were further characterized by DNA sequencing with a Perkin Elmer/Applied Biosystems Division Automated Sequencer Model 373A and/or Model 377 (Foster City, CA). The cDNA sequences for sixty isolated clones are provided in SEQ ID NO: 1-60. These sequences were compared to known  
 15 sequences in the gene bank using the EMBL and GenBank databases (release 96). No significant homologies were found to the sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 2, 3, 19, 38 and 46. The sequences of SEQ ID NO: 1, 6-8, 10-13, 15, 17, 18, 20-27, 29, 30, 32, 34-37, 39-45, 47-49, 51, 52, 54, 55 and 57-59 were found to show some homology to previously identified expressed sequence tags (ESTs). The sequences of SEQ ID NO: 9, 28, 31 and 33  
 20 were found to show some homology to previously identified non-human gene sequences and the sequences of SEQ ID NO: 4, 5, 14, 50, 53, 56 and 60 were found to show some homology to gene sequences previously identified in humans.

The subtraction procedure described above was repeated using the above lung squamous cell carcinoma cDNA library as the tracer DNA, and the above normal lung  
 25 tissue cDNA library and a cDNA library from normal liver and heart (constructed from a pool of one sample of each tissue as described above), plus twenty other cDNA clones that were frequently recovered in lung subtractions I and II, as the driver DNA (lung subtraction III). The normal liver and heart cDNA library contained  $1.76 \times 10^6$  independent colonies, with 100% of clones having inserts and the average insert size being 1600 base

pairs. Ten additional clones were isolated (SEQ ID NO: 61-70). Comparison of these cDNA sequences with those in the gene bank as described above, revealed no significant homologies to the sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 62 and 67. The sequences of SEQ ID NO: 61, 63-66, 68 and 69 were found to show some homology to previously isolated  
 5 ESTs and the sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 70 was found to show some homology to a previously identified rat gene.

In further studies, the subtraction procedure described above was repeated using the above lung squamous cell carcinoma cDNA library as the tracer DNA, and a cDNA library from a pool of normal lung, kidney, colon, pancreas, brain, resting PBMC,  
 10 heart, skin and esophagus as the driver DNA, with esophagus cDNAs making up one third of the driver material. Since esophagus is enriched in normal epithelial cells, including differentiated squamous cells, this procedure is likely to enrich genes that are tumor specific rather than tissues specific. The cDNA sequences of 48 clones determined in this subtraction are provided in SEQ ID NO: 177-224. The sequences of SEQ ID NO: 177,  
 15 178, 180, 181, 183, 187, 192, 195-197, 208, 211, 212, 215, 216, 218 and 219 showed some homology to previously identified genes. The sequences of SEQ ID NO: 179, 182, 184-186, 188-191, 193, 194, 198-207, 209 210, 213, 214, 217, 220 and 224 showed some homology to previously determined ESTs. The sequence of SEQ ID NO: 221-223 showed no homology to any previously determined sequence.

## 20 B. ISOLATION OF cDNA SEQUENCES FROM A LUNG ADENOCARCINOMA LIBRARY

A human lung adenocarcinoma cDNA expression library was constructed as described above. The library contained  $3.2 \times 10^6$  independent colonies, with 100% of clones having an insert and the average insert size being 1500 base pairs. Library  
 25 subtraction was performed as described above using the normal lung and normal liver and heart cDNA expression libraries described above as the driver DNA. Twenty-six hundred independent clones were recovered.

Initial cDNA sequence analysis from 100 independent clones revealed many ribosomal protein genes. The cDNA sequences for fifteen clones isolated in this subtraction are provided in SEQ ID NO: 71-86. Comparison of these sequences with those in the gene bank as described above revealed no significant homologies to the sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 84. The sequences of SEQ ID NO: 71, 73, 74, 77, 78 and 80-82 were found to show some homology to previously isolated ESTs, and the sequences of SEQ ID NO: 72, 75, 76, 79, 83 and 85 were found to show some homology to previously identified human genes.

In further studies, a cDNA library (referred to as mets3616A) was constructed from a metastatic lung adenocarcinoma. The determined cDNA sequences of 25 clones sequenced at random from this library are provided in SEQ ID NO: 255-279. The mets3616A cDNA library was subtracted against a cDNA library prepared from a pool of normal lung, liver, pancreas, skin, kidney, brain and resting PBMC. To increase the specificity of the subtraction, the driver was spiked with genes that were determined to be most abundant in the mets3616A cDNA library, such as EF1-alpha, integrin-beta and anticoagulant protein PP4, as well as with cDNAs that were previously found to be differentially expressed in subtracted lung adenocarcinoma cDNA libraries. The determined cDNA sequences of 51 clones isolated from the subtracted library (referred to as mets3616A-S1) are provided in SEQ ID NO: 280-330.

Comparison of the sequences of SEQ ID NO: 255-330 with those in the public databases revealed no significant homologies to the sequences of SEQ ID NO: 255-258, 260, 262-264, 270, 272, 275, 276, 279, 281, 287, 291, 296, 300 and 310. The sequences of SEQ ID NO: 259, 261, 265-269, 271, 273, 274, 277, 278, 282-285, 288-290, 292, 294, 297-299, 301, 303-309, 313, 314, 316, 320-324 and 326-330 showed some homology to previously identified gene sequences, while the sequences of SEQ ID NO: 280, 286, 293, 302, 310, 312, 315, 317-319 and 325 showed some homology to previously isolated expressed sequence tags (ESTs).

## EXAMPLE 2

## DETERMINATION OF TISSUE SPECIFICITY OF LUNG TUMOR POLYPEPTIDES

Using gene specific primers, mRNA expression levels for seven representative lung tumor polypeptides described in Example 1 were examined in a variety of normal and tumor tissues using RT-PCR.

Briefly, total RNA was extracted from a variety of normal and tumor tissues using Trizol reagent as described above. First strand synthesis was carried out using 2  $\mu$ g of total RNA with SuperScript II reverse transcriptase (BRL Life Technologies) at 42 °C for one hour. The cDNA was then amplified by PCR with gene-specific primers. To ensure the semi-quantitative nature of the RT-PCR,  $\beta$ -actin was used as an internal control for each of the tissues examined. 1  $\mu$ l of 1:30 dilution of cDNA was employed to enable the linear range amplification of the  $\beta$ -actin template and was sensitive enough to reflect the differences in the initial copy numbers. Using these conditions, the  $\beta$ -actin levels were determined for each reverse transcription reaction from each tissue. DNA contamination was minimized by DNase treatment and by assuring a negative PCR result when using first strand cDNA that was prepared without adding reverse transcriptase.

mRNA Expression levels were examined in five different types of tumor tissue (lung squamous cell carcinoma from 3 patients, lung adenocarcinoma, colon tumor from 2 patients, breast tumor and prostate tumor), and thirteen different normal tissues (lung from 4 donors, prostate, brain, kidney, liver, ovary, skeletal muscle, skin, small intestine, stomach, myocardium, retina and testes). Using a 10-fold amount of cDNA, the antigen LST-S1-90 (SEQ ID NO: 3) was found to be expressed at high levels in lung squamous cell carcinoma and in breast tumor, and at low to undetectable levels in the other tissues examined.

The antigen LST-S2-68 (SEQ ID NO: 15) appears to be specific to lung and breast tumor, however, expression was also detected in normal kidney. Antigens LST-S1-169 (SEQ ID NO: 6) and LST-S1-133 (SEQ ID NO: 5) appear to be very abundant in lung tissues (both normal and tumor), with the expression of these two genes being decreased in most of the normal tissues tested. Both LST-S1-169 and LST-S1-133 were also expressed

in breast and colon tumors. Antigens LST-S1-6 (SEQ ID NO: 7) and LST-S2-I2-5F (SEQ ID NO: 47) did not show tumor or tissue specific expression, with the expression of LST-S1-28 being rare and only detectable in a few tissues. The antigen LST-S3-7 (SEQ ID NO: 63) showed lung and breast tumor specific expression, with its message only being detected in normal testes when the PCR was performed for 30 cycles. Lower level expression was detected in some normal tissues when the cycle number was increased to 35. Antigen LST-S3-13 (SEQ ID NO: 66) was found to be expressed in 3 out of 4 lung tumors, one breast tumor and both colon tumor samples. Its expression in normal tissues was lower compared to tumors, and was only detected in 1 out of 4 normal lung tissues and in normal tissues from kidney, ovary and retina. Expression of antigens LST-S3-4 (SEQ ID NO: 62) and LST-S3-14 (SEQ ID NO: 67) was rare and did not show any tissue or tumor specificity. Consistent with Northern blot analyses, the RT-PCT results on antigen LAT-S1-A-10A (SEQ ID NO: 78) suggested that its expression is high in lung, colon, stomach and small intestine tissues, including lung and colon tumors, whereas its expression was low or undetectable in other tissues.

A total of 2002 cDNA fragments isolated in lung subtractions I, II and III, described above, were colony PCR amplified and their mRNA expression levels in lung tumor, normal lung, and various other normal and tumor tissues were determined using microarray technology (Synteni, Palo Alto, CA). Briefly, the PCR amplification products were dotted onto slides in an array format, with each product occupying a unique location in the array. mRNA was extracted from the tissue sample to be tested, reverse transcribed, and fluorescent-labeled cDNA probes were generated. The microarrays were probed with the labeled cDNA probes, the slides scanned and fluorescence intensity was measured. This intensity correlates with the hybridization intensity. Seventeen non-redundant cDNA clones showed over-expression in lung squamous tumors, with expression in normal tissues tested (lung, skin, lymph node, colon, liver, pancreas, breast, heart, bone marrow, large intestine, kidney, stomach, brain, small intestine, bladder and salivary gland) being either undetectable, or 10-fold less compared to lung squamous tumors. The determined partial cDNA sequences for the clone L513S are provided in SEQ ID NO: 87 and 88; those for

L514S are provided in SEQ ID NO: 89 and 90; those for L516S in SEQ ID NO: 91 and 92; that for L517S in SEQ ID NO: 93; that for L519S in SEQ ID NO: 94; those for L520S in SEQ ID NO: 95 and 96; those for L521S in SEQ ID NO: 97 and 98; that for L522S in SEQ ID NO: 99; that for L523S in SEQ ID NO: 100; that for L524S in SEQ ID NO: 101; that  
 5 for L525S in SEQ ID NO: 102; that for L526S in SEQ ID NO: 103; that for L527S in SEQ ID NO: 104; that for L528S in SEQ ID NO: 105; that for L529S in SEQ ID NO: 106; and those for L530S in SEQ ID NO: 107 and 108. Additionally, the full-length cDNA sequence for L530S is provided in SEQ ID NO: 151, with the corresponding predicted amino acid sequence being provided in SEQ ID NO: 152. L530S shows homology to a splice variant  
 10 of a p53 tumor suppressor homologue, p63. The cDNA sequences of 7 known isoforms of p63 are provided in SEQ ID NO: 331-337, with the corresponding predicted amino acid sequences being provided in SEQ ID NO: 338-344, respectively.

Due to polymorphisms, the clone L531S appears to have two forms. A first determined full-length cDNA sequence for L531S is provided in SEQ ID NO: 109, with  
 15 the corresponding predicted amino acid sequence being provided in SEQ ID NO: 110. A second determined full-length cDNA sequence for L531S is provided in SEQ ID NO: 111, with the corresponding predicted amino acid sequence being provided in SEQ ID NO: 112. The sequence of SEQ ID NO: 111 is identical to that of SEQ ID NO: 109, except that it contains a 27 bp insertion. Similarly, L514S also has two alternatively spliced forms; the  
 20 first variant cDNA is listed as SEQ ID NO: 153, with the corresponding amino acid sequence being provided in SEQ ID NO: 155. The second variant form of L514S full-length cDNA is provided in SEQ ID NO: 154, with its corresponding amino acid sequence being provided in SEQ ID NO: 156.

Full length cloning for L524S (SEQ ID NO: 101) yielded two variants  
 25 (SEQ ID NO: 163 and 164) with the corresponding predicted amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 165 and 166, respectively. Both variants have been shown to encode parathyroid hormone-related peptide.

Attempts to isolate the full-length cDNA for L519S, resulted in the isolation of the extended cDNA sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 173, which contains a potential

open reading frame. The predicted amino acid sequence encoded by the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 173 is provided in SEQ ID NO: 174. Additionally, the full-length cDNA sequence for the clone of SEQ ID NO: 100 (known as L523S), a known gene, is provided in SEQ ID NO: 175, with the corresponding predicted amino acid sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 176. In further studies, a full-length cDNA sequence for L523S was isolated from a L523S-positive tumor cDNA library by PCR amplification using gene specific primers designed from the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 175. The determined cDNA sequence is provided in SEQ ID NO: 347. The amino acid sequence encoded by this sequence is provided in SEQ ID NO: 348. This protein sequence differs from the previously published protein sequence at two amino acid positions, namely at positions 158 and 410.

Comparison of the sequences of L514S and L531S (SEQ ID NO: 87 and 88, 89 and 90, and 109, respectively) with those in the gene bank, as described above, revealed no significant homologies to known sequences. The sequences of L513S, L516S, L517S, L519S, L520S and L530S (SEQ ID NO: 87 and 88, 91 and 92, 93, 94, 95 and 96, 107 and 108, respectively) were found to show some homology to previously identified ESTs. The sequences of L521S, L522S, L523S, L524S, L525S, L526S, L527S, L528S and L529S (SEQ ID NO: 97 and 98, 99, 99, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, and 106, respectively) were found to represent known genes. The determined full-length cDNA sequences for L520S is provided in SEQ ID NO: 113, with the corresponding predicted amino acid sequence being provided in SEQ ID NO: 114. Subsequent microarray analysis has shown L520S to be overexpressed in breast tumors in addition to lung squamous tumors.

Further analysis has demonstrated that L529S (SEQ ID NO: 106 and 115), L525S (SEQ ID NO: 102 and 120) and L527S (SEQ ID NO: 104) are cytoskeletal components and potentially squamous cell specific proteins. L529S is connexin 26, a gap junction protein. It is highly expressed in lung squamous tumor 9688T, and moderately over-expressed in two others. However, lower level expression of connexin 26 is also detectable in normal skin, colon, liver and stomach. The over-expression of connexin 26 in some breast tumors has been reported and a mutated form of L529S may result in over-expression in lung tumors. L525S is plakophilin 1, a desmosomal protein found in plaque-



bearing adhering junctions of the skin. Expression levels for L525S mRNA is highly elevated in three out of four lung squamous tumors tested, and in normal skin. L527S has been identified as keratin 6 isoform, type II 58 Kd keratin, and cytokeratin 13 and shows over-expression in squamous tumors and low expression in normal skin, breast and colon tissues. Notably, keratin and keratin-related genes have been extensively documented as potential markers for lung cancer including CYFRA2.1 (Pastor, A., et al, *Eur. Respir. J.*, 10:603-609, 1997). L513S (SEQ ID NO: 87 and 88) shows moderate over-expression in several tumor tissues tested, and encodes a protein that was first isolated as a pemphigus vulgaris antigen.

10 L520S (SEQ ID NO: 95 and 96) and L521S (SEQ ID NO: 97 and 98) are highly expressed in lung squamous tumors, and L520S is up-regulated in normal salivary gland and L521S is over-expressed in normal skin. Both belong to a family of small proline rich proteins and represent markers for fully differentiated squamous cells. L521S has been described as a specific marker for lung squamous tumor (Hu, R., et al, *Lung Cancer*, 20:25-30, 1998). L515S (SEQ ID NO: 162) encodes IGF- $\beta$ 2 and L516S is an aldose reductase homologue and both are moderately expressed in lung squamous tumors and in normal colon. Notably, L516S (SEQ ID NO: 91 and 92) is up-regulated in metastatic tumors but not primary lung adenocarcinoma, an indication of its potential role in metatasis and a potential prognostic marker. L522S (SEQ ID NO: 99) is moderately over-expressed in lung squamous tumors with minimum expression in normal tissues. L522S has been shown to belong to a class IV alcohol dehydrogenase, ADH7, and its expression profile suggests it is a squamous cell specific antigen. L523S (SEQ ID NO: 100) is moderately over-expressed in lung squamous tumor, human pancreatic cancer cell lines and pancreatic cancer tissues, suggesting this gene may be a shared antigen between pancreatic and lung squamous cell cancer.

L524S (SEQ ID NO: 101) is over-expressed in the majority of squamous tumors tested and is homologous with parathyroid hormone-related peptide (PTHrP), which is best known to cause humoral hypercalcaemia associated with malignant tumors such as leukemia, prostate and breast cancer. It is also believed that PTHrP is most

commonly associated with squamous carcinoma of lung and rarely with lung adenocarcinoma (Davidson, L.A., et al, *J. Pathol.*, 178: 398-401, 1996). L528S (SEQ ID NO: 105) is highly over-expressed in two lung squamous tumors with moderate expression in two other squamous tumors, one lung adenocarcinoma and some normal tissues, including skin, lymph nodes, heart, stomach and lung. It encodes the NMB gene that is similar to the precursor of melanocyte specific gene Pmel17, which is reported to be preferentially expressed in low-metastatic potential melanoma cell lines. This suggests that L528S may be a shared antigen in both melanoma and lung squamous cell carcinoma. L526S (SEQ ID NO: 103) is overexpressed in all lung squamous cell tumor tissues tested and has been shown to share homology with a gene (ATM) in which a mutation causes ataxia telangiectasia, a genetic disorder in humans causing a predisposition to cancer, among other symptoms. ATM encodes a protein that activates p53 mediated cell-cycle checkpoint through direct binding and phosphorylation of the p53 molecule. Approximately 40% of lung cancer is associated with p53 mutations, and it is speculated that over-expression of ATM is a result of compensation for loss of p53 function, but it is unknown whether over-expression is the cause of result of lung squamous cell carcinoma. Additionally, expression of L526S (ATM) is also detected in a metastatic but not lung adenocarcinoma, suggesting a role in metastasis.

Expression of L523S (SEQ ID NO: 175), was also examined by real time RT-PCR as described above. In a first study using a panel of lung squamous tumors, L523S was found to be expressed in 4/7 lung squamous tumors, 2/3 head and neck squamous tumors and 2/2 lung adenocarcinomas, with low level expression being observed in skeletal muscle, soft palate and tonsil. In a second study using a lung adenocarcinoma panel, expression of L523S was observed in 4/9 primary adenocarcinomas, 2/2 lung pleural effusions, 1/1 metastatic lung adenocarcinomas and 2/2 lung squamous tumors, with little expression being observed in normal tissues.

Expression of L523S in lung tumors and various normal tissues was also examined by Northern blot analysis, using standard techniques. In a first study, L523S was found to be expressed in a number of lung adenocarcinomas and squamous cell

carcinomas, as well as normal tonsil. No expression was observed in normal lung. In a second study using a normal tissue blot (HB-12) from Clontech, no expression was observed in brain, skeletal muscle, colon, thymus, spleen, kidney, liver, small intestine, lung or PBMC, although there was strong expression in placenta.

5

## EXAMPLE 3

ISOLATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF LUNG TUMOR POLYPEPTIDES BY  
PCR-BASED SUBTRACTION

Eight hundred and fifty seven clones from a cDNA subtraction library, containing cDNA from a pool of two human lung squamous tumors subtracted against  
10 eight normal human tissue cDNAs including lung, PBMC, brain, heart, kidney, liver, pancreas, and skin, (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA) were derived and submitted to a first round of PCR amplification. This library was subjected to a second round of PCR amplification, following the manufacturer's protocol. The resulting cDNA fragments were subcloned into the vector P7- Adv vector (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA) and transformed into DH5 $\alpha$  *E. coli*  
15 (Gibco, BRL). DNA was isolated from independent clones and sequenced using a Perkin Elmer/Applied Biosystems Division Automated Sequencer Model 373A.

One hundred and sixty two positive clones were sequenced. Comparison of the DNA sequences of these clones with those in the EMBL and GenBank databases, as described above, revealed no significant homologies to 13 of these clones, hereinafter  
20 referred to as Contigs 13, 16, 17, 19, 22, 24, 29, 47, 49, 56-59. The determined cDNA sequences for these clones are provided in SEQ ID NO: 125, 127-129, 131-133, 142, 144, 148-150, and 157, respectively. Contigs 1, 3-5, 7-10, 12, 11, 15, 20, 31, 33, 38, 39, 41, 43, 44, 45, 48, 50, 53, 54 (SEQ ID NO: 115-124, 126, 130, 134-141, 143, 145-147, respectively) were found to show some degree of homology to previously identified DNA  
25 sequences. Contig 57 (SEQ ID NO: 149) was found to represent the clone L519S (SEQ ID NO: 94) disclosed in US. Patent Application No. 09/123,912, filed July 27, 1998. To the best of the inventors' knowledge, none of these sequences have been previously shown to be differentially over-expressed in lung tumors.

mRNA expression levels for representative clones in lung tumor tissues, normal lung tissues (n=4), resting PBMC, salivary gland, heart, stomach, lymph nodes, skeletal muscle, soft palate, small intestine, large intestine, bronchial, bladder, tonsil, kidney, esophagus, bone marrow, colon, adrenal gland, pancreas, and skin, (all derived from human) were determined by RT-PCR as described above. Expression levels using microarray technology, as described above, were examined in one sample of each tissue type unless otherwise indicated.

Contig 3 (SEQ ID NO: 116) was found to be highly expressed in all head and neck squamous cell tumors tested (17/17), and expressed in the majority (8/12) of lung squamous tumors, (high expression in 7/12, moderate in 2/12, and low in 2/12), while showing negative expression for 2/4 normal lung tissues and low expression in the remaining two samples. Contig 3 showed moderate expression in skin and soft palate, and lowered expression levels in resting PBMC, large intestine, salivary gland, tonsil, pancreas, esophagus, and colon. Contig 11 (SEQ ID NO: 124) was found to be expressed in all head and neck squamous cell tumors tested (17/17): highly expressed in 14/17, and moderately expressed in 3/17. Additionally, expression in lung squamous tumors showed high expression in 3/12 and moderate in 4/12. Contig 11 was negative for 3/4 normal lung samples, with the remaining sample having only low expression. Contig 11 showed low to moderate reactivity to salivary gland, soft palate, bladder, tonsil, skin, esophagus, and large intestine. Contig 13 (SEQ ID NO: 125) was found to be expressed in all head and neck squamous cell tumors tested (17/17): highly expressed in 12/17, and moderately expressed in 5/17. Contig 13 was expressed in 7/12 lung squamous tumors, with high expression in 4/12 and moderate expression in three samples. Analysis of normal lung samples showed negative expression for 2/4 and low to moderate expression in the remaining two samples. Contig 13 did show low to moderate reactivity to resting PBMC, salivary gland, bladder, pancreas, tonsil, skin, esophagus, and large intestine, as well as high expression in soft palate. Subsequent full-length cloning efforts revealed that contig 13 (also known as L761P) maps to the 3' untranslated region of the hSec10p gene. The full-length sequence for this gene is set forth in SEQ ID NO: 368, and encodes the protein set forth in SEQ ID

NO: 369. Contig 16 (SEQ ID NO: 127) was found to be moderately expressed in some head and neck squamous cell tumors (6/17) and one lung squamous tumor; while showing no expression in any normal lung samples tested. Contig 16 did show low reactivity to resting PBMC, large intestine, skin, salivary gland, and soft palate. Contig 17 (SEQ ID NO: 128) was shown to be expressed in all head and neck squamous cell tumors tested (17/17): highly expressed in 5/17, and moderately expressed in 12/17. Expression levels in lung squamous tumors showed one tumor sample with high expression and 3/12 with moderate levels. Contig 17 was negative for 2/4 normal lung samples, with the remaining samples having only low expression. Additionally, low level expression was found in esophagus and soft palate. Contig 19 (SEQ ID NO: 129) was found to be expressed in most head and neck squamous cell tumors tested (11/17); with two samples having high levels, 6/17 showing moderate expression, and low expression being found in 3/17. Testing in lung squamous tumors revealed only moderate expression in 3/12 samples. Expression levels in 2/4 of normal lung samples were negative, the two other samples having only low expression. Contig 19 showed low expression levels in esophagus, resting PBMC, salivary gland, bladder, soft palate and pancreas.

Contig 22 (SEQ ID NO: 131), was shown to be expressed in most head and neck squamous cell tumors tested (13/17) with high expression in four of these samples, moderate expression in 6/17, and low expression in 3/17. Expression levels in lung squamous tumors were found to be moderate to high for 3/12 tissues tested, with negative expression in two normal lung samples and low expression in two other samples (n=4). Contig 22 showed low expression in skin, salivary gland and soft palate. Similarly, Contig 24 (SEQ ID NO: 132) was found to be expressed in most head and neck squamous cell tumors tested (13/17) with high expression in three of these samples, moderate expression in 6/17, and low expression in 4/17. Expression levels in lung squamous tumors were found to be moderate to high for 3/12 tissues tested, with negative expression for three normal lung samples and low expression in one sample (n=4). Contig 24 showed low expression in skin, salivary gland and soft palate. Contig 29 (SEQ ID NO: 133) was expressed in nearly all head and neck squamous cell tumors tested (16/17): highly

expressed in 4/17, moderately expressed in 11/17, with low expression in one sample. Also, it was moderately expressed in 3/12 lung squamous tumors, while being negative for 2/4 normal lung samples. Contig 29 showed low to moderate expression in large intestine, skin, salivary gland, pancreas, tonsil, heart and soft palate. Contig 47 (SEQ ID NO: 142) was expressed in most head and neck squamous cell tumors tested (12/17): moderate expression in 10/17, and low expression in two samples. In lung squamous tumors, it was highly expressed in one sample and moderately expressed in two others (n=13). Contig 47 was negative for 2/4 normal lung samples, with the remaining two samples having moderate expression. Also, Contig 47 showed moderate expression in large intestine, and pancreas, and low expression in skin, salivary gland, soft palate, stomach, bladder, resting PBMC, and tonsil.

Contig 48 (SEQ ID NO: 143) was expressed in all head and neck squamous cell tumors tested (17/17): highly expressed in 8/17 and moderately expressed in 7/17, with low expression in two samples. Expression levels in lung squamous tumors were high to moderate in three samples (n=13). Contig 48 was negative for one out of four normal lung samples, the remaining showing low or moderate expression. Contig 48 showed moderate expression in soft palate, large intestine, pancreas, and bladder, and low expression in esophagus, salivary gland, resting PBMC, and heart. Contig 49 (SEQ ID NO: 144) was expressed at low to moderate levels in 6/17 head and neck squamous cell tumors tested. Expression levels in lung squamous tumors were moderate in three samples (n=13). Contig 49 was negative for 2/4 normal lung samples, the remaining samples showing low expression. Moderate expression levels in skin, salivary gland, large intestine, pancreas, bladder and resting PBMC were shown, as well as low expression in soft palate, lymph nodes, and tonsil. Contig 56 (SEQ ID NO: 148) was expressed in low to moderate levels in 3/17 head and neck squamous cell tumors tested, and in lung squamous tumors, showing low to moderate levels in three out of thirteen samples. Notably, low expression levels were detected in one adenocarcinoma lung tumor sample (n=2). Contig 56 was negative for 3/4 normal lung samples, and showed moderate expression levels in only large intestine, and low expression in salivary gland, soft palate, pancreas, bladder, and resting

PBMC. Contig 58, also known as L769P, (SEQ ID NO: 150) was expressed at moderate levels in 11/17 head and neck squamous cell tumors tested and low expression in one additional sample. Expression in lung squamous tumors showed low to moderate levels in three out of thirteen samples. Contig 58 was negative for 3/4 normal lung samples, with one sample having low expression. Moderate expression levels in skin, large intestine, and resting PBMC were demonstrated, as well as low expression in salivary gland, soft palate, pancreas, and bladder. Contig 59 (SEQ ID NO: 157) was expressed in some head, neck, and lung squamous tumors. Low level expression of Contig 59 was also detected in salivary gland and large intestine.

10 The full-length cDNA sequence for Contig 22, also referred to as L763P, is provided in SEQ ID NO: 158, with the corresponding predicted amino acid sequence being provided in SEQ ID NO: 159. Real-time RT-PCR analysis of L763P revealed that it is highly expressed in 3/4 lung squamous tumors as well as 4/4 head and neck squamous tumors, with low level expression being observed in normal brain, skin, soft pallet and trachea. Subsequent database searches revealed that the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 158 contains a mutation, resulting in a frameshift in the corresponding protein sequence. A second cDNA sequence for L763P is provided in SEQ ID NO: 345, with the corresponding amino acid sequence being provided in SEQ ID NO: 346. The sequences of SEQ ID NO: 159 and 346 are identical with the exception of the C-terminal 33 amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 159.

25 The full-length cDNA sequence incorporating Contigs 17, 19, and 24, referred to as L762P, is provided in SEQ ID NO: 160, with the corresponding predicted amino acid sequence being provided in SEQ ID NO: 161. Further analysis of L762P has determined it to be a type I membrane protein and two additional variants have been sequenced. Variant 1 (SEQ ID NO: 167, with the corresponding amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 169) is an alternatively spliced form of SEQ ID NO: 160 resulting in deletion of 503 nucleotides, as well as deletion of a short segment of the expressed protein. Variant 2 (SEQ ID NO: 168, with the corresponding amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 170) has a two nucleotide deletion at the 3' coding region in comparison to SEQ ID NO: 160,

resulting in a secreted form of the expressed protein. Real-time RT-PCR analysis of L762P revealed that is over-expressed in 3/4 lung squamous tumors and 4/4 head & neck tumors, with low level expression being observed in normal skin, soft pallet and trachea.

An epitope of L762 was identified as having the sequence  
 5 KPGHWTYTLNNTTHSLQALK, amino acids 571-590 of SEQ ID NO:161.

The full-length cDNA sequence for contig 56 (SEQ ID NO: 148), also referred to as L773P, is provided in SEQ ID NO: 171, with the predicted amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 172. L773P was found to be identical to dihydroxyl dehydrogenase at the 3' portion of the gene, with divergent 5' sequence. As a result, the 69  
 10 N-terminal amino acids are unique. The cDNA sequence encoding the 69 N-terminal amino acids is provided in SEQ ID NO: 349, with the N-terminal amino acid sequence being provided in SEQ ID NO: 350. Real-time PCR revealed that L773P is highly expressed in lung squamous tumor and lung adenocarcinoma, with no detectable expression in normal tissues. Subsequent Northern blot analysis of L773P demonstrated  
 15 that this transcript is differentially over-expressed in squamous tumors and detected at approximately 1.6 Kb in primary lung tumor tissue and approximately 1.3 Kb in primary head and neck tumor tissue.

Subsequent microarray analysis has shown Contig 58, also referred to as L769S (SEQ ID NO: 150), to be overexpressed in breast tumors in addition to lung  
 20 squamous tumors.

#### EXAMPLE 4

#### SYNTHESIS OF POLYPEPTIDES

Polypeptides may be synthesized on a Perkin Elmer/Applied Biosystems Division 430A peptide synthesizer using FMOC chemistry with HPTU (O-Benzotriazole-  
 25 N,N,N',N'-tetramethyluronium hexafluorophosphate) activation. A Gly-Cys-Gly sequence may be attached to the amino terminus of the peptide to provide a method of conjugation, binding to an immobilized surface, or labeling of the peptide. Cleavage of the peptides from the solid support may be carried out using the following cleavage mixture:



trifluoroacetic acid:ethanedithiol:thioanisole:water:phenol (40:1:2:2:3). After cleaving for 2 hours, the peptides may be precipitated in cold methyl-t-butyl-ether. The peptide pellets may then be dissolved in water containing 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) and lyophilized prior to purification by C18 reverse phase HPLC. A gradient of 0%-60% acetonitrile (containing 0.1% TFA) in water (containing 0.1% TFA) may be used to elute the peptides. Following lyophilization of the pure fractions, the peptides may be characterized using electrospray or other types of mass spectrometry and by amino acid analysis.

### EXAMPLE 5

#### PREPARATION OF ANTIBODIES AGAINST LUNG CANCER ANTIGENS

Polyclonal antibodies against the lung cancer antigens L514S, L528S, L531S and L523 (SEQ ID NO: 155, 225, 112 and 176 respectively) were prepared as follows.

Rabbits were immunized with recombinant protein expressed in and purified from *E. coli* as described above. For the initial immunization, 400 µg of antigen combined with muramyl dipeptide (MDP) was injected subcutaneously (S.C.). Animals were boosted S.C. 4 weeks later with 200 µg of antigen mixed with incomplete Freund's Adjuvant (IFA). Subsequent boosts of 100 µg of antigen mixed with IFA were injected S.C. as necessary to induce high antibody titer responses. Serum bleeds from immunized rabbits were tested for antigen-specific reactivity using ELISA assays with purified protein. Polyclonal antibodies against L514S, L528S, L531S and L523S were affinity purified from high titer polyclonal sera using purified protein attached to a solid support.

Immunohistochemical analysis using polyclonal antibodies against L514S was performed on a panel of 5 lung tumor samples, 5 normal lung tissue samples and normal colon, kidney, liver, brain and bone marrow. Specifically, tissue samples were fixed in formalin solution for 24 hours and embedded in paraffin before being sliced into 10 micron sections. Tissue sections were permeabilized and incubated with antibody for 1 hr. HRP-labeled anti-mouse followed by incubation with DAB chromogen was used to visualize L514S immunoreactivity. L514S was found to be highly expressed in lung tumor

tissue with little or no expression being observed in normal lung, brain or bone marrow. Light staining was observed in colon (epithelial crypt cells positive) and kidney (tubules positive). Staining was seen in normal liver but no mRNA has been detected in this tissue making this result suspect.

- 5                   Using the same procedure, immunohistochemical analysis using polyclonal antibodies against L528S demonstrated staining in lung tumor and normal lung samples, light staining in colon and kidney and no staining in liver and heart.

- Immunohistochemical analysis using polyclonal antibodies against L531S demonstrated staining in lung tumor samples, light membrane staining in most normal lung  
10   samples, epithelial staining in colon, tubule staining in kidney, ductal epithelial staining in liver and no staining in heart.

                  Immunohistochemical analysis using polyclonal antibodies against L523S demonstrated staining in all lung cancer samples tested but no staining in normal lung, kidney, liver, colon, bone marrow or cerebellum.

- 15                   Generation of polyclonal anti-sera against L762P (SEQ ID NO: 169 and 170) was performed as follows. 400 micrograms of lung antigen was combined with 100 micrograms of muramyl dipeptide (MDP). Equal volume of Incomplete Freund's Adjuvant (IFA) was added and then mixed until an emulsion was formed. Rabbits were injected subcutaneously (S.C.). After four weeks the animals were injected S.C. with 200  
20   micrograms of antigen that was mixed with an equal volume of IFA. Every four weeks animals were boosted with 100 micrograms of antigen. Seven days following each boost the animal was bled. Sera was generated by incubating the blood at 4°C for 12-24 hours followed by centrifugation.

- Characterization of polyclonal antisera was carried out as follows. 96 well  
25   plates were coated with antigen by incubating with 50 microliters (typically 1 microgram) at 4°C for 20 hrs. 250 microliters of BSA blocking buffer was added to the wells and incubated at RT for 2 hrs. Plates were washed 6 times with PBS/0.01% tween. Rabbit sera was diluted in PBS. Fifty microliters of diluted sera was added to each well and incubated at RT for 30 min. Plates were washed as described above before 50 microliters of goat

anti-rabbit horse radish peroxidase (HRP) at a 1:10000 dilution was added and incubated at RT for 30 min. Plates were washed as described above and 100µl of TMB Microwell Peroxidase Substrate was added to each well. Following a 15 minute incubation in the dark at room temperature the colorimetric reaction was stopped with 100µl 1N H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and read immediately at 450 nm. Antisera showed strong reactivity to antigen L762P.

Immunohistochemical analysis using polyclonal antibodies against L762S demonstrated staining in all lung cancer samples tested, some light staining in the bronchiole epithelium of normal lung, tubule staining in kidney, light epithelial staining in colon and no staining in heart or liver.

10

#### EXAMPLE 6

##### PEPTIDE PRIMING OF MICE AND PROPAGATION OF CTL LINES

Immunogenic peptides from the lung cancer antigen L762P (SEQ ID NO: 161) for HLA-A2/K<sup>b</sup>-restricted CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells were identified as follows.

The location of HLA-A2 binding peptides within the lung cancer antigen L762P (SEQ ID NO: 161) was predicted using a computer program which predicts peptides sequences likely to be to HLA-A\*0201 by fitting to the known peptide binding motif for HLA-A\*0201 (Rupert *et al.* (1993) *Cell* 74:929; Rammensee *et al.* (1995) *Immunogenetics* 41:178-228). A series of 19 synthetic peptides corresponding to a selected subset of the predicted HLA-A\*0201 binding peptides was prepared as described above.

Mice expressing the transgene for human HLA A2/K<sup>b</sup> (provided by Dr L. Sherman, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA) were immunized with the synthetic peptides, as described by Theobald *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 92:11993-11997, 1995 with the following modifications. Mice were immunized with 50µg of L726P peptide and 120µg of an I-A<sup>b</sup> binding peptide derived from hepatitis B Virus protein emulsified in incomplete Freund's adjuvant. Three weeks later these mice were sacrificed and single cell suspensions prepared. Cells were then resuspended at  $7 \times 10^6$  cells/ml in complete media

(RPMI-1640; Gibco BRL, Gaithersburg, MD) containing 10% FCS, 2mM Glutamine (Gibco BRL), sodium pyruvate (Gibco BRL), non-essential amino acids (Gibco BRL),  $2 \times 10^{-5}$  M 2-mercaptoethanol, 50U/ml penicillin and streptomycin, and cultured in the presence of irradiated (3000 rads) L762P peptide- (5 $\mu$ g/ml) and 10mg/ml B<sub>2</sub>-microglobulin- (3  $\mu$ g/ml) LPS blasts (A2 transgenic spleens cells cultured in the presence of 7 $\mu$ g/ml dextran sulfate and 25 $\mu$ g/ml LPS for 3 days). After six days, cells ( $5 \times 10^5$ /ml) were restimulated with  $2.5 \times 10^6$ /ml peptide pulsed irradiated (20,000 rads) EL4A2Kb cells (Sherman et al, *Science* 258:815-818, 1992) and  $5 \times 10^6$ /ml irradiated (3000 rads) A2/K<sup>b</sup>-transgenic spleen feeder cells. Cells were cultured in the presence of 10U/ml IL-2. Cells were restimulated on a weekly basis as described, in preparation for cloning the line.

Peptide-specific cell lines were cloned by limiting dilution analysis with irradiated (20,000 rads) L762P peptide-pulsed EL4 A2Kb tumor cells ( $1 \times 10^4$  cells/well) as stimulators and irradiated (3000 rads) A2/K<sup>b</sup>-transgenic spleen cells as feeders ( $5 \times 10^5$  cells/ well) grown in the presence of 10U/ml IL-2. On day 7, cells were restimulated as before. On day 14, clones that were growing were isolated and maintained in culture.

Cell lines specific for L762P-87 (SEQ ID NO: 226; corresponding to amino acids 87-95 of SEQ ID NO: 161), L762P-145 (SEQ ID NO: 227; corresponding to amino acids 145-153 of SEQ ID NO: 161), L762P-585 (SEQ ID NO: 228; corresponding to amino acids 585-593 of SEQ ID NO: 161), L762P-425 (SEQ ID NO: 229; corresponding to amino acids 425-433 of SEQ ID NO: 161), L762P(10)-424 (SEQ ID NO: 230; corresponding to amino acids 424-433 of SEQ ID NO: 161) and L762P(10)-458 (SEQ ID NO: 231; corresponding to amino acids 458-467 of SEQ ID NO: 161) demonstrated significantly higher reactivity (as measured by percent specific lysis) against L762P peptide-pulsed EL4-A2/K<sup>b</sup> tumor target cells than control peptide-pulsed EL4-A2/K<sup>b</sup> tumor target cells.

## EXAMPLE 7

IDENTIFICATION OF CD4 IMMUNOGENIC T CELL EPITOPES DERIVED FROM  
THE LUNG CANCER ANTIGEN L762P

CD4 T cell lines specific for the antigen L762P (SEQ ID NO: 161) were  
5 generated as follows.

A series of 28 overlapping peptides were synthesized that spanned  
approximately 50% of the L762P sequence. For priming, peptides were combined into  
pools of 4-5 peptides, pulsed at 20 micrograms/ml into dendritic cells for 24 hours. The  
dendritic cells were then washed and mixed with positively selected CD4+ T cells in 96  
10 well U-bottomed plates. Forty cultures were generated for each peptide pool. Cultures  
were restimulated weekly with fresh dendritic cells loaded with peptide pools. Following a  
total of 3 stimulation cycles, cells were rested for an additional week and tested for  
specificity to antigen presenting cells (APC) pulsed with peptide pools using interferon-  
gamma ELISA and proliferation assays. For these assays, adherent monocytes loaded with  
15 either the relevant peptide pool or an irrelevant peptide were used as APC. T cell lines that  
appeared to specifically recognize L762P peptide pools both by cytokine release and  
proliferation were identified for each pool. Emphasis was placed on identifying T cells  
with proliferative responses. T cell lines that demonstrated either both L762P-specific  
cytokine secretion and proliferation, or strong proliferation alone were further expanded to  
20 be tested for recognition of individual peptides from the pools, as well as for recognition of  
recombinant L762P. The source of recombinant L762P was *E. coli*, and the material was  
partially purified and endotoxin positive. These studies employed 10 micrograms of  
individual peptides, 10 or 2 micrograms of an irrelevant peptide, and 2 or 0.5 micrograms  
of either L762P protein or an irrelevant, equally impure, *E. coli* generated recombinant  
25 protein. Significant interferon-gamma production and CD4 T cell proliferation was  
induced by a number of L762P-derived peptides in each pool. The amino acid sequences  
for these peptides are provided in SEQ ID NO: 232-251. These peptides correspond to  
amino acids 661-680, 676-696, 526-545, 874-893, 811-830, 871-891, 856-875, 826-845,

795-815, 736-755, 706-725, 706-725, 691-710, 601-620, 571-590, 556-575, 616-635, 646-665, 631-650, 541-560 and 586-605, respectively, of SEQ ID NO: 161.

CD4 T cell lines that demonstrated specificity for individual L762P-derived peptides were further expanded by stimulation with the relevant peptide at 10 micrograms/ml. Two weeks post-stimulation, T cell lines were tested using both proliferation and IFN-gamma ELISA assays for recognition of the specific peptide. A number of previously identified T cells continued to demonstrate L762P-peptide specific activity. Each of these lines was further expanded on the relevant peptide and, following two weeks of expansion, tested for specific recognition of the L762P-peptide in titration experiments, as well as for recognition of recombinant *E. coli*-derived L762P protein. For these experiments, autologous adherent monocytes were pulsed with either the relevant L762P-derived peptide, an irrelevant mammaglobin-derived peptide, recombinant *E. coli*-derived L762P (approx. 50% pure), or an irrelevant *E. coli*-derived protein. The majority of T cell lines were found to show low affinity for the relevant peptide, since specific proliferation and IFN-gamma ratios dramatically decreased as L762P peptide was diluted. However, four lines were identified that demonstrated significant activity even at 0.1 micrograms/ml peptide. Each of these lines (referred to as A/D5, D/F5, E/A7 and E/B6) also appeared to specifically proliferate in response to the *E. coli*-derived L762P protein preparation, but not in response to the irrelevant protein preparation. The amino acid sequences of the L762P-derived peptides recognized by these lines are provided in SEQ ID NO: 234, 249, 236 and 245, respectively. No protein specific IFN-gamma was detected for any of the lines. Lines A/D5, E/A7 and E/B6 were cloned on autologous adherent monocytes pulsed with the relevant peptide at 0.1 (A/D5 and E/A7) or 1 (D/F5) microgram/ml. Following growth, clones were tested for specificity for the relevant peptide. Numerous clones specific for the relevant peptide were identified for lines A/D5 and E/A7.

## EXAMPLE 8

### PROTEIN EXPRESSION OF LUNG TUMOR-SPECIFIC ANTIGENS

#### a) Expression of L514S in *E. coli*

The lung tumor antigen L514S (SEQ ID NO: 89) was subcloned into the expression vector pE32b at NcoI and NotI sites, and transformed into *E. coli* using standard techniques. The protein was expressed from residues 3-153 of SEQ ID NO: 89. The expressed amino acid sequence and the corresponding DNA sequence are provided in SEQ ID NO: 252 and 253, respectively.

#### b) Expression of L762P

Amino acids 32-944 of the lung tumor antigen L762P (SEQ ID NO: 161), with a 6X His Tag, were subcloned into a modified pET28 expression vector, using kanamycin resistance, and transformed into BL21 CodonPlus using standard techniques. Low to moderate levels of expression were observed. The determined DNA sequence of the L762P expression construct is provided in SEQ ID NO: 254.

## EXAMPLE 9

### IDENTIFICATION OF MHC CLASS II RESTRICTING ALLELE FOR L-762 PEPTIDE-SPECIFIC RESPONSES

A panel of HLA mismatched antigen presenting cells (APC) were used to identify the MHC class II restricting allele for the L762-peptide specific responses of CD4 T cell clones derived from lines that recognized L762 peptide and recombinant protein. Clones from two lines, AD-5 and EA-7, were tested. The AD-5 derived clones were found to be restricted by the HLA-DRB-1101 allele, and an EA-7 derived clone was found to be restricted by the HLA DRB-0701 or DQB1-0202 allele. Identification of the restriction allele allows targeting of vaccine therapies using the defined peptide to individuals that express the relevant class II allele. Knowing the relevant restricting allele will also enable

clinical monitoring for responses to the defined peptide since only individuals that express the relevant allele will be monitored.

CD4 T cell clones derived from line AD-5 and EA-7 were stimulated on autologous APC pulsed with the specific peptide at 10 µg/ml, and tested for recognition of autologous APC (D72) as well as against a panel of APC partially matched with D72 at class II alleles. Table 1 shows the HLA class typing of the APC tested. Adherent monocytes (generated by 2 hour adherence) from D45, D187, D208, and D326 were used as APC in these experiments. Autologous APC (D72) were not included in the experiment. Each of the APC were pulsed with the relevant peptide (5a for AD-5 and 3e for 3A-7) or the irrelevant mammoglobin peptide at 10 µg/ml, and cultures were established for 10,000 T cells and about 20,000 APC/well. As shown in Table 2, specific proliferation and cytokine production could be detected only when partially matched donor cells were used as APC. Based on the MHC typing analysis, these results strongly suggest that the restricting allele for the L762-specific response of the AD-5 derived clones is HLA-DRB-1101 and for the EA-7 derived clone the restricting allele is HLA DRB-0701 or DQB1-0202.

**TABLE 1 - HLA TYPING OF APC**

DONOR	DR	DR	DQ	DQ
D72	B1-1101	B1-0701	B1-0202	B1-0301
D45	-3	-15	B1-0201	B1-0602
D187	-4	-15	-1	-7
D208	B1-1101	B1-0407	-3	-3
D326	B1-0301	B1-0701	B1-0202	B1-0201



TABLE 2 - L762 PEPTIDE RESPONSES MAP TO HLA DR ALLELES

			AD-5																								EA-7	
			A11		B10		C10		C11		E6		F1		F9		G8		G9		G10		G12					
Donor	ProI	γ-IFN	ProI	γ-IFN	ProI	γ-IFN	ProI	γ-IFN	ProI	γ-IFN	ProI	γ-IFN	ProI	γ-IFN	ProI	γ-IFN	ProI	γ-IFN	ProI	γ-IFN	ProI	γ-IFN	ProI	γ-IFN	ProI	γ-IFN		
D72 DR-0701, -1101, DQ-0202, -7	46		31		34		24		31		40		55		45		43		91		10							
D45 DR-3,-15, DQ-1, -0201	32	1.7	5.5	1.2	3.3	1	1.0	1.5	1.1	1.1	1.6	1.1	1.4	1.3	0.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.5	0.8	1.1						
D187 DR-4, -15, DQ-1,-7	1.4	1.2	1.3	1	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.9	1	1.0	1	1.0	1.6	0.5	1						
D208 DR-4, -1101, DQ-3	138	13	38	5.4	18.8	10	14.6	4.6	15.3	6.1	45.9	8.6	73.3	14.1	38.0	7.7	174.3	16.1	113.6	19.6	0.8	1						
D326 DR-3, -0701, DQ-0202	0.7	4	0.3	1	0.3	1.4	1.0	2	0.8	1.1	0.3	1.1	0.7	1.1	0.6	1.2	0.4	1	1.2	5	14.1	6.8						

EXAMPLE 10

FUSION PROTEINS OF N-TERMINAL AND C-TERMINAL PORTIONS OF L763P

In another embodiment, a *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*-derived Ra12 polynucleotide is linked to at least an immunogenic portion of a polynucleotide of this invention. Ra12 compositions and methods for their use in enhancing expression of heterologous polynucleotide sequences are described in U.S. Patent Application 60/158,585, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. Briefly, Ra12 refers to a polynucleotide region that is a subsequence of a *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* MTB32A nucleic acid. MTB32A is a serine protease of 32 KD molecular weight encoded by a gene in virulent and avirulent strains of *M. tuberculosis*. The nucleotide sequence and amino acid sequence of MTB32A have been described (for example, U.S. Patent Application 60/158,585; see also, Skeiky *et al.*, *Infection and Immun.* (1999) 67:3998-4007, incorporated herein by reference). Surprisingly, it was discovered that a 14 KD C-terminal fragment of the MTB32A coding sequence expresses at high levels on its own and remains as a soluble protein throughout the purification process. Moreover, Ra12 may enhance the immunogenicity of heterologous antigenic polypeptides with which it is fused. This 14 KD C-terminal fragment of the MTB32A is referred herein as Ra12 and represents a fragment comprising some or all of amino acid residues 192 to 323 of MTB32A.

Recombinant nucleic acids, which encode a fusion polypeptide comprising a Ra12 polypeptide and a heterologous lung tumor polypeptide of interest, can be readily constructed by conventional genetic engineering techniques. Recombinant nucleic acids are constructed so that, preferably, a Ra12 polynucleotide sequence is located 5' to a selected heterologous lung tumor polynucleotide sequence. It may also be appropriate to place a Ra12 polynucleotide sequence 3' to a selected heterologous polynucleotide sequence or to insert a heterologous polynucleotide sequence into a site within a Ra12 polynucleotide sequence.

In addition, any suitable polynucleotide that encodes a Ra12 or a portion or other variant thereof can be used in constructing recombinant fusion polynucleotides comprising Ra12 and one or more lung tumor polynucleotides disclosed herein. Preferred Ra12 polynucleotides generally comprise at least about 15 consecutive nucleotides, at least  
 5 about 30 nucleotides, at least about 60 nucleotides, at least about 100 nucleotides, at least about 200 nucleotides, or at least about 300 nucleotides that encode a portion of a Ra12 polypeptide.

Ra12 polynucleotides may comprise a native sequence (*i.e.*, an endogenous sequence that encodes a Ra12 polypeptide or a portion thereof) or may comprise a variant  
 10 of such a sequence. Ra12 polynucleotide variants may contain one or more substitutions, additions, deletions and/or insertions such that the biological activity of the encoded fusion polypeptide is not substantially diminished, relative to a fusion polypeptide comprising a native Ra12 polypeptide. Variants preferably exhibit at least about 70% identity, more preferably at least about 80% identity and most preferably at least about 90% identity to a  
 15 polynucleotide sequence that encodes a native Ra12 polypeptide or a portion thereof.

Two specific embodiments of fusions between Ra12 and antigens of the present invention are described in this example.

#### A. N-Terminal Portion of L763P

A fusion protein of full-length Ra12 and the N-terminal portion of L763P  
 20 (amino acid residues 1-130) was expressed as a single recombinant protein in *E. coli*. The cDNA for the N-terminal portion was obtained by PCR with a cDNA for the full length L763P and primers L763F3 5' CGGCGAATTCAT-GGATTGGGGGACGCTGC and 1763RV3 5' CGGCCTCGAGTCACCCCTCTA-TCCGAACCTTCTGC. The PCR product with expected size was recovered from agarose gel, digested with restriction  
 25 enzymes EcoRI and XhoI, and cloned into the corresponding sites in the expression vector pCRX1. The sequence for the fusion of full-length of Ra12 and L763P-N was confirmed by DNA sequencing (SEQ ID NO:351 and 352).

## B. C-Terminal Portion of L763P

A fusion protein of full-length Ra12 and the C-terminal portion of L763P (amino acid residues 100-262) was expressed as a single recombinant protein in *E. coli*. The cDNA of the C-terminal portion of L763P was obtained by PCR with a cDNA for the full length of L763P and primers L763F4 5' CGGCGAATTCCACGAACCACTCGCAAGTTCAG and L763RV4 5' CGGCTCGAG-TTAGCTTGGGCCTGTGATTGC. The PCR product with expected size was recovered from agarose gel, digested with restriction enzymes *EcoRI* and *XhoI*, and cloned into the corresponding sites in the expression vector pCRX1. The sequence for the fusion of full-length Ra12 and L763P-C was confirmed by DNA sequencing (SEQ ID NO:353 and 354).

The recombinant proteins described in this example are useful for the preparation of vaccines, for antibody therapeutics, and for diagnosis of lung tumors.

## EXAMPLE 11

### 15 EXPRESSION IN *E. COLI* OF L762P HIS TAG FUSION PROTEIN

PCR was performed on L762P coding region with the following primers:

Forward Primer starting at amino acid 32.

PDM-278 5'ggagtacagcttcaagacaatggg 3' (SEQ ID NO:355) Tm 57°C.

Reverse Primer including natural stop codon after amino acid 920, creating  
20 *EcoRI* site

PDM-280 5'ccatgggaattcattataataattttgtcc 3' (SEQ ID NO:356) TM55°C.

The PCR product was then digested with *EcoRI* restriction enzyme, gel purified and then cloned into pPDM His, a modified pET28 vector with a His tag in frame, which had been digested with *Eco72I* and *EcoRI* restriction enzymes. The correct  
25 construct was confirmed by DNA sequence analysis and then transformed into BL21 (DE3) pLys S and BL21 (DE3) CodonPlus RIL expression hosts.

The protein sequence of expressed recombinant L762P is shown in SEQ ID NO:357, and the DNA sequence is shown in SEQ ID NO:358.

## EXAMPLE 12

## EXPRESSION IN E. COLI OF L773P A, HIS TAG FUSION PROTEIN

The L773P A coding region was PCR amplified using the following

primers:

- 5 Forward primer for L773P A starting at amino acid 2.  
 PDM-299 5'tggcagccctcttctcaagtggc 3' (SEQ ID NO:359) Tm63°C.  
 Reverse primer for L773P A creating artificial stop codon after amino acid  
 70.  
 PDM-355 5'cgccagaattcatcaacaaatctgtagcacc 3' (SEQ ID NO:360)  
 10 Tm62°C.

The PCR product was then digested with EcoRI restriction enzyme, gel  
 purified and then cloned into pPDM His, a modified pET28 vector with a His tag in frame,  
 which had been digested with Eco72I and EcoRI restriction enzymes. The correct  
 construct was confirmed by DNA sequence analysis and then transformed into BL21 (DE3)  
 15 pLys S and BL21 (DE3) CodonPlus RIL expression hosts.

The protein sequence of expressed recombinant L773P A is shown in SEQ  
 ID NO:361, and the DNA sequence is shown in SEQ ID NO:362.

## EXAMPLE 13

## 20 EPITOPES DERIVED FROM CLONE L773P POLYPEPTIDE

A series of peptides from the L773P amino acid sequence were synthesized  
 and used in *in vitro* priming experiments to generate peptide-specific CD4 T cells. These  
 peptides were 20-mers that overlapped by 15 amino acids and corresponded to amino acids  
 1-69 of the L773P protein. This region has been demonstrated to be tumor-specific.  
 25 Following three *in vitro* stimulations, CD4 T cell lines were identified that produced IFN $\gamma$   
 in response to the stimulating peptide but not the control peptide. Some of these T cell  
 lines demonstrated recognition of recombinant L773P and L773PA (tumor-sprcidic region)  
 proteins.

To perform the experiments, a total of 11 20-mer peptides overlapping by 15 amino acids and derived from the N-terminal tumor-specific region of L773P corresponding to amino acids 1-69 of L773P were generated by standard procedures (Figure 1). Dendritic cells were derived from PBMC of a normal donor using GMCSF and IL-4 by standard protocol. Purified CD4 T cells were generated from the same donor as the dendritic cells by using MACS beads and negative selection of PBMCs. Dendritic cells were pulsed overnight with the individual 20-mer peptides at a concentration of 10  $\mu$ g/ml. Pulsed dendritic cells were washed and plated at  $1 \times 10^4$ /well of a 96-well U-bottom plates, and purified CD4 cells were added at  $1 \times 10^5$  well. Cultures were supplemented with 10 ng/ml IL-6 and 5 ng/ml IL-12 and incubated at 37°C. Cultures were re-stimulated as above on a weekly basis using as APC dendritic cells generated and pulsed as above, supplemented with 5 ng/ml IL-7 and 10  $\mu$ g/ml IL-2. Following 3 *in vitro* stimulation cycles, lines (each line corresponds to one well) were tested for cytokine production in response to the stimulating peptide vs. an irrelevant peptide.

A small number of individual CD4 T cell lines (9/528) demonstrated cytokine release (IFN $\gamma$ ) in response to the stimulating peptide but not to control peptide (Figure 3). The CD4 T cell lines that demonstrated specific activity were restimulated on the appropriate L773P peptide and reassayed using autologous dendritic cells pulsed with 10  $\mu$ g/ml of the appropriate L773P peptide, an irrelevant control peptide, recombinant L773P protein (amino acids 2-364, made in *E. coli*), recombinant L773PA (amino acids 2-71, made in *E. coli*), and an appropriate control protein (L3E, made in *E. coli*). Three of the nine lines tested (1-3C, 1-6G, and 4-12B) recognized the appropriate L773P peptide as well as recombinant L773P and L773PA (Figure 2). Four of the lines tested (4-8A, 4-8E, 4-12D, and 4-12E) recognized the appropriate L773P peptide only. Two of the lines tested (5-6F and 9-3B) demonstrated non-specific activity.

The significant conclusion of this study is that the peptide sequences MWQPLFFKWLLSCCPGSSQI (amino acids 1-20, SEQ ID NO:363) and GSSQIAAAASTQPEDDINTQ (amino acids 16-35, SEQ ID NO: 365) may represent naturally processed epitopes of L773P, which are capable of stimulating human class II MHC-restricted CD4 T cell responses.

On the basis of these results, other epitopes within the scope of the invention include epitopes restricted by other class II MHC; molecules. In addition, variants of the peptide can be produced wherein one or more amino acids are altered such that there is no effect on the ability of the peptides to bind to MHC molecules, no effect on their ability to elicit T cell responses, and no effect on the ability of the elicited T cells to recognize recombinant protein.

The identification of these epitopes from L773P provides strong evidence that this antigen could be used as a component of a cancer vaccine for eliciting T cell responses in lung cancer patients for the treatment of their disease. The peptides could also be used for clinical monitoring of L773P vaccine-treated patients. The peptides could be used directly as a vaccine for lung cancer patients with an L773P-expressing lung tumor.

#### EXAMPLE 14

##### SURFACE EXPRESSION OF L762P AND ANTIBODY EPITOPES THEREOF

Rabbits were immunized with full-length Histidine-tagged L762 protein generated in *E. coli*. Sera was isolated from rabbits and screened for specific recognition of L762P in ELISA assays. One polyclonal serum, 2692L was identified that specifically recognized recombinant L762P protein. The 2692L anti-L762P polyclonal antibodies were purified from the serum by affinity purification using L762P affinity columns. Although L762P is expressed in a subset of primary lung tumor samples, expression appears to be lost in established lung tumor cell lines. Therefore, to characterize surface expression of L762P, a retrovirus construct that expresses L762P was used to transduce primary human fibroblasts as well as 3 lung tumor cell lines (522-23, HTB, and 343T). Transduced lines were selected and expanded to examine L762P surface expression by FACS analysis. For this analysis, non-transduced and transduced cells were harvested using cell dissociation medium, and incubated with 10-50 micrograms/ml of either affinity purified anti-L762P or irrelevant anti-P703P sera. Following a 30 minute incubation on ice, cells were washed and incubated with a secondary, FITC conjugated anti rabbit IgG antibody as above. Cells were washed, resuspended in buffer with Propidium Iodide (PI) and examined by FACS using an

Excalibur fluorescence activated cell sorter. For FACS analysis, PI-positive (i.e. dead/permeabilized cells) were excluded. The polyclonal anti-L762P sera specifically recognized and bound to the surface of L762P-transduced cells but not the non-transduced counterparts. These results demonstrate that L762P is localized to the cell surface of both

5 fibroblasts as well as lung tumor cells.

To identify the peptide epitopes recognized by 2692L, an epitope mapping approach was pursued. A series of overlapping 19-21 mers (5 amino acid overlap) was synthesized that spanned C terminal 1/2 of L762P (amino acids 481-894). In an initial experiment peptides were tested in pools. Specific reactivity with the L762P antiserum was

10 observed with pools A, B, C, and E. To identify the specific peptides recognized by the antiserum, flat bottom 96 well microtiter plates were coated with individual peptides at 10 microgram/ml for 2 hours at 37 C. Wells were then aspirated and blocked with phosphate buffered saline containing 5% (w/v) milk for 2 hours at 37 C, and subsequently washed in PBS containing 0.1% Tween 20 (PBST). Purified rabbit anti-L762P serum 2692L was

15 added at 200 or 20 ng/well to triplicate wells in PBST and incubated overnight at room temperature. This was followed by washing 6 times with PBST and subsequently incubating with HRP-conjugated donkey anti rabbit IgG (H+L)Affinipure F(ab') fragment at 1:2,000 for 60 minutes. Plates were then washed, and incubated in Tetramethyl benzidine substrate. Reactions were stopped by the addition of 1N sulfuric acid and plates

20 were read at 450/570 nm using an ELISA plate reader.

The resulting data, presented in Table 1 below, demonstrates that the L762P antisera recognized at least 6 distinct peptide epitopes from the 3' half of L762P.



Peptide (starting amino acid of L762P)	pool	ELISA activity (OD 450-570)	
		200 ng polyclonal serum	20 ng polyclonal serum
A (481)	A	1.76	1.0
B (495)	A	0.14	.06
C (511)	E	0.47	0.18
D (526)	E	0.11	0.09
E (541)	A	0.11	0.04
F (556)	A	0.04	0.02
G (571)	A	0.06	0.02
H (586)	B	0.1	0.03
I (601)	B	0.25	0.06
J (616)	B	0.1	0.03
K (631)	E	0.1	0.08
L (646)	B	0.28	0.12
M (661)	B	0.14	0.03
N (676)	C	0.12	0.1
O (691)	C	1.1	0.23
P (706)	C	0.1	0.03
Q (721)	C	0.11	0.05
R (736)	E	0.12	0.04
S (751)	C	0.15	0.06
U (781)	D	0.12	0.06
V (795)	F	0.07	0.05
X (826)	D	0.1	0.03
Y (841)	D	0.17	0.07
Z (856)	D	0.16	0.08
AA (871)	F	0.17	0.05
BB (874)	F	0.14	0.11
No peptide		0.15	0.045

Individual peptides were identified from each of the pools, and additionally a weak reactivity was identified with peptide BB from pool F. The relevant peptide epitopes are summarized in the table below.

Peptide	Nucleotides of L762P	Amino acids of L762P	Sequence	pool	ELISA activity (OD 450-570)	
					200 ng	20 ng
A	1441-1500	481-500	SRISSTGDIQFQHHQLEST	A	1.76	1.0
C	1531-1590	511-530	KNTVTVDNTVGNDTMFLVTW	E	0.47	0.18
I	1801-1860	601-620	AVPPATVEAFVERDSLHFP	B	0.25	0.06
L	1936-1955	646-665	PETGDPVTLRLDDGAGADV	B	0.28	0.12
O	2071-2130	691-710	VNHSPSISTPAHSIPGSHAMIL	C	1.1	0.23
BB	2620-2679	874-893	LQSAVSNIQAPLFIPPNSD	F	0.14	0.11
None	-	-	-	-	0.15	0.05

From the foregoing it will be appreciated that, although specific  
 5 embodiments of the invention have been described herein for purposes of illustration,  
 various modifications may be made without deviating from the spirit and scope of the  
 invention. Accordingly, the invention is not limited except as by the appended claims.